

# WEST VIRGINIA CODE: §48-2-701

## §48-2-701. Premarital education encouraged; requirements.

(a) Persons applying for a marriage license may attend a premarital education course of at least four hours during the twelve months immediately preceding the date of the application for the license.

(b) A premarital education course offers instruction involving marital issues which may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) Conflict management;
- (2) Communication skills;
- (3) Managing finances;
- (4) Child and parenting responsibilities;
- (5) Extended family roles; and
- (6) Key components of a successful marriage.

(c) Premarital education course instructors must have training in skills-based and research-based marriage preparation curricula.

(d) Premarital education courses may be performed by the following:

- (1) A professional counselor or marriage and family therapist licensed pursuant to article thirty-one, chapter thirty of this code;
- (2) A social worker licensed pursuant to article thirty, chapter thirty of this code;
- (3) A psychiatrist who is licensed as a physician pursuant to article three, chapter thirty of this code;
- (4) A psychologist who is licensed pursuant to article twenty-one, chapter thirty of this code; or
- (5) An active member of the clergy or his or her designee, including retired clergy, provided that a designee is trained in skills-based and research-based marriage preparation curricula premarital education.

(e) The premarital education course curricula must meet the requirements of this section and provide a skills-based and research-based curricula of the following:

- (1) The National Healthy Marriage Resource Center;
  - (2) A church, spiritual assembly, or religious organization; or
  - (3) Other substantially similar resource.
- (f) The Department of Human Services shall maintain an Internet website on which individuals and organizations described in subsection (c) may electronically register with the department to indicate the skills-based and research-based curriculum in which the registrant is trained.
- (g) The premarital education provider shall furnish each participant, who completes the premarital education required by this section, a certificate of completion.