

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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October 25, 1945

Town Clerk
Norway, Maine

Dear Sir:-

I understand from the Rev. W. T. Bennett of your town that you have informed him that you will not accept the certificate of a marriage where it has been performed more than 30 days after the date of the blood tests, you being of the opinion that such is the requirement of the law.

You are in error in this interpretation. The statute requires that the blood test examination shall not be more than 30 days prior to the date on which the license is applied for, so the license cannot be obtained where the test was made prior to 30 days before the date when the application is made for a marriage license.

Where the license is issued, however, the marriage need not be performed within 30 days of the taking of the blood test. This is clear from the statutory certificate that is issued which provides at the end thereof that "this certificate is invalid after 1 year from the date issued." Thus the certificate remains in force for one year, and the marriage may be performed at any time within the year.

The blood test is only required prior to the issuance of the license, not after its issuance.

Very truly yours,

Abraham Breitbard
Deputy Attorney General

AB:c

cc: Rev. W. T. Bennett, 41 Beal Street, Norway
Paul A. MacDonald, Deputy Secretary of State