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County of San Bernardino

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County awaiting action by 9th Circuit Court of Appeals before issuing same-sex marriage licenses

SAN BERNARDINO – Same-sex couples will not be able to obtain marriage licenses in San Bernardino County until the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals lifts a stay on a lower court decision declaring Proposition 8 unconstitutional.

Following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision on Proposition 8 this morning, the California Department of Public Health instructed all counties in California not to issue same-sex marriage licenses until the 9th Circuit lifts the stay, which could take 30 days or more.

In 2010, a U.S. District Court judge found Proposition 8 unconstitutional, but the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals issued a stay on that decision while the proponents of Proposition 8 appealed the case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Once the stay is lifted, same-sex couples may obtain a marriage license at the County Hall of Records, 222 W. Hospitality Lane in San Bernardino and the Recorder's Office in the High Desert Government Center, 15900 Smoke Tree Street in Hesperia.

Dan Harp, Assistant Assessor Recorder said the process for same-sex couples to obtain a marriage license will be identical to the process for couples of the opposite sex.

"They will fill out an application for a marriage license and they can choose to perform a civil marriage here at our Recorder's Office or have their wedding performed at a private location of their choice," Harp said. "I suspect there will be a substantial increase in civil marriages, but our staff is ready."

For more information about obtaining a marriage license, visit the Assessor-Recorder-County Clerk's website at <http://www.sbcounty.gov/arc/MarriageInfo.aspx>.