

**FOUR WEDDINGS
and a
Funeral**



Judge Gregory D. Smith
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In a note of irony, there was a copyright infringement case involving the music for this movie. See, Mappa Music Co. v. Universal-Polygram Int'l Publ'g., 2002 U.S. Dist. 28354 (C.D. Cal. 12/17/2001). The movie company and the composer had a divorce all their own!

1

Wedding 1
**The Basics for a
Wedding (We hope)**



**Tenn. Code Ann. §
36-3-301 et seq.**

Trademark fights over variants of the name "Bridezilla" erupted between Zillow and LoanZilla. Zillow, Inc. v. Super T Fin. Inc., 2014 TTAB Lexis 314 (Trademark Trial & Appeal Bd. 7/22/2014).

2

**Expect
Stress When
Conducting
Weddings.**



No-shows for dresses and bands, or double-booking wedding venues, are fertile fields for lawsuits by both brides and grooms. See Deborah Zalesne, Gender Inequality in Contract Casebooks, Representations of Women in the Contracts Curriculum, 17 FIU L. Rev. 148-149 (2023).


3

Make Sure All Parties Agree to Wed & Understand the Process...and ain't cousins



For a discussion of the song, "I'm My Own Grandpa," made famous by Lonzo & Oscar, see *Southeastern Fidelity Ins. v. Fliellen*, 198 S.E.2d 407, 408 (Ga. App. 1973).

4



Poorly proofed forms (and opinions) can cause giggles. See e.g., *Snyder v. City of Riverside*, 2016 U.S. Dist. Lexis 197815 (C.D. Cal. 9/9/2016), at *5 n.2

5

Marriage License
State of Tennessee
Montgomery County

Greetings: You or either of you are hereby authorized to subscribe
The Rite of Matrimony

Between _____
and _____

According to the Statutes of the State of Tennessee in such case made and provided. Therefore, do hereby certify under the Seal of the County Clerk in the State of Tennessee.

Given at the Clerk's office of said county, this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Ferns Goodell
COUNTY CLERK

THIS LICENSE IS NOT VALID AFTER 30 DAYS FROM DATE OF ISSUANCE

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Marriage licenses are required for some services such as military DEERS benefits. See 67 Fed. Reg. 15721 (4/3/2002).

6

Senior Judge S. John Cottone sentenced:

- Paul R. Shive, 52, 1308 Winton St., Archbald, to six months of probation, for bigamy. He was arrested for marrying a woman on Aug. 24, 1996 while still being married to his first wife, who did not file for divorce until August 1997.


Wedding 2
The Comic Tragedy of Bigamy



Jolly Ole' England loved a good bigamy story!
 Ian Ward, *Things Little Girls have No Basis of Knowing*,
 22 Colum. J. Gender & L. 430, 452 (2011).

7

Wedding 3
Same-Sex Marriages



"The right to marry thus dignifies couples who wish to define themselves by their commitment to each other."

Obergefell v. Hodges
 576 U.S. 644, 667 (2015).

8

Wedding 4
Wild, Wacky & Weird Weddings

Adams v. Adams
 2009 Tenn. App. Lexis 105,
 (Tenn. App. W.S. 3/17/2009).
"Wicked Step-Mother" apron wedding
 gift from ex-wife



9

...and a Funeral
Tenn. Code Ann. § 38-5-103

He's only MOSTLY dead
Bahamas = 7 member jury for coroner's jury. Traces back to 1729 England!
 Legal System of the Bahamas, 40 St. Louis L.J. 1325, 1328 (1990).

10

Questions?

"I am tired of lawyers questioning the witnesses always, and objecting to everything in this court."
Love v. Reynolds, 128 P. 242, 243 (Okla. 1912). Case upheld as a "token" statement.

11

And they lived happily ever after!
Thank You!

Greg Smith
Mississippi Supreme Court Justice, Chuck R. McRae, once declared that marital "happily ever after" exists "only in fairy tales."
 See Bland v. Hill, 735 So. 2d 414, 427 n.6 (Miss. 1999), McRae dissenting. I disagree. I hope you do, too.

12
