



CHAPTER 51
ARTICLE 1 - GENERAL PROVISIONS

N.C.G.S. § 51-1.

Requisites of marriage; solemnization.

SOURCE General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT No amendment history on record	RETRIEVED 21 September 2026, 02:53 UTC	SOURCE FINGERPRINT 5e2f191a0cc4a94398f193de - 3804c68de08f1ba56ce0d50f - f1bc2a4e5cd27690
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A valid and sufficient marriage is created by the consent of a male and female person who may lawfully marry, presently to take each other as husband and wife, freely, seriously and plainly expressed by each in the presence of the other, either:

- a.In the presence of an ordained minister of any religious denomination, a minister authorized by a church, or a magistrate; and
 - b.With the consequent declaration by the minister or magistrate that the persons are husband and wife; or
- In accordance with any mode of solemnization recognized by any religious denomination, or federally or State recognized Indian Nation or Tribe.

Marriages solemnized before March 9, 1909, by ministers of the gospel licensed, but not ordained, are validated from their consummation. (1871-2, c. 193, s. 3; Code, s. 1812; Rev., s. 2081; 1908, c. 47; 1909, c. 704, s. 2; c. 897; C.S., s. 2493; 1945, c. 839; 1965, c. 152; 1971, c. 1185, s. 26; 1977, c. 592, s. 1; 2000-58, ss. 1, 2; 2001-14, ss. 1, 2; 2001-62, ss. 1, 17; 2002-115, ss. 5, 6; 2002-159, s. 13(a); 2003-4, s. 1; 2005-56, s. 1; 2007-61, s. 1; 2009-13, s. 1; 2012-194, s. 65.4(a).)

END OF SECTION TEXT

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Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 51-1 (2026).

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