

STATE LAW: PREMARITAL PREPARATION COURSE

I certify that _____ and _____ have successfully completed a premarital preparation course, pursuant to S.C. Code 20-1-230(B), and are entitled to a one-time fifty dollar non-refundable South Carolina income tax credit as permitted in S.C. Code 12-6-3381.

I further certify that I am a professional counselor who is licensed pursuant to Chapter 75 of Title 40; OR, I am an active member of the clergy and provided counseling in the course of me service as clergy; OR, such services were provided by a clergy's designee, including retired clergy, and that the designee is trained and skilled in premarital preparation.

I further certify that the participants completed the course together, rather than separately.

I further certify that the course was completed by the couple on _____.

I further certify that a minimum of six (6) hours was completed.

Counselor's Name (PRINT)

Counselor's Signature

Counselor's Credentials

Course Completion Date

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SECTION 20-1-230. Premarital Preparation Course.

(B) A couple who successfully completes a qualifying premarital preparation course and who have a South Carolina marriage license which attests the completion of the course shall be entitled to receive a one-time fifty-dollar nonrefundable state income tax credit, as permitted in Section 12-6-3381. In order for the course to qualify pursuant to this section, the couple must:

(1) attend a course taught by a professional counselor who is licensed pursuant to Chapter 75 of Title 40 or by an active member of the clergy in the course of his or her service as clergy or his or her designee, including retired clergy, provided that the designee is trained and skilled in premarital preparation;

(2) attend a minimum of six hours of instruction;

(3) complete the course within twelve months prior to the application for a marriage license; and

(4) complete the course together rather than individually.

A couple who completes a premarital preparation course pursuant to this section must be issued a certification of completion at the conclusion of the course by their course provider. The certification must include the number of hours that the couple completed together and the credentials of the course provider. A couple must produce this certification when applying for the marriage license in order to receive the non-refundable state income tax credit. The judge of probate or clerk of court must certify on the marriage license that the couple met the statutory requirements to qualify for this income tax credit. The judge of probate court or clerk of court is not responsible to authenticate the information contained in the certification of completion unless the certification of completion is wholly fraudulent on its face.

(C) The discount authorized by this section must not be applied to the fee credited to the Domestic Violence Fund provided for in Section 20-1-375.