

## Documents Evidencing Marriage Bona Fides

### Proxy Marriage Documents

Once Phoebe (Shih-Yi CHIEN) and I decided to marry by proxy, which occurred in the first few days of December, 2008, I spoke with the El Paso County (Colorado) Clerk and Recorder's Office to verify the procedures. I also spoke with Judge James Patterson, whom the Clerk's Office indicated performed proxy ceremonies.

The process in Colorado is very straightforward. One party must be physically present for the ceremony and the party that will be unable to attend must submit a notarized *Absentee Affidavit – Application for Marriage License*. In addition, if either party does not possess a U.S. Social Security Number, that party must submit a notarized *Affidavit Concerning Social Security Number*. The present party takes these documents to the Clerk and Recorder's office and fills out the Application for Marriage License. After paying the nominal fee, the Marriage License is obtained.

The absent party must then appoint a person over the age of 21 to serve as their proxy at the ceremony and submits a *Special Power of Attorney* appointing the proxy to act in that capacity. Prior to the ceremony, but by no more than seven days, the proxy must contact the absent party and verbally confirm the person's intent to marry the other party, that they are doing so of their own free will, and that they understand that the marriage is as legally binding as if they had been physically present and exchanged vows personally.

At the appointed hour, the party that will attend the ceremony, the proxy, and a witness (any adult over the age of 21) present themselves in the judge's chambers, who then queries the proxy concerning their interaction with the absent party and, once satisfied that the absent party is entering into marriage freely and properly, proceed to perform the ceremony.

I asked USAF Captain Carolyn Rose Bartley if she would be willing to act as Phoebe's proxy, to which she agreed. I introduced Carolyn and Phoebe to each other via e-mail and left it to them to exchange phone numbers and make the necessary verbal contact, which they did without problem. I also asked USAF Lieutenant Colonel Leemon C. Baird III if he would act as the witness, to which he agreed.

I then downloaded the affidavit forms from the county website and prepared the special power of attorney per the judge's instructions. I made these available to Phoebe who then printed them out, filled them out, signed them, had them notarized, and sent them to me via FedEx.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of December, 2008 at 5pm, all required parties and documents were presented to Judge Patterson (in addition, Phoebe was present via speaker phone) who promptly performed the ceremony and completed the Marriage Certificate. Copies of the three documents specific to a proxy wedding are presented on the following three pages.

**ABSENTEE AFFIDAVIT-APPLICATION FOR MARRIAGE LICENSE**

The absent party must fill this out **completely**, and the other party must bring the affidavit and be present in order to obtain the license. A copy of the ID showing proof of age of the absent party must also be presented with the affidavit.

STATE OF COLORADO

County of El Paso

I the undersigned hereby make application for a license to unite in marriage and under oath I state that the information given is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and there exists no legal reason why we should not be married.

**APPLICANT:**

Legal Name: Shih-Yi Chien  
First Middle Name Last Previous Married Name OR Suffix

Address: No. 218 Shi-Ta Rd., Taipei Taiwan 1100  
Number/Street City State/Zip

Birth Date: 03 / 06 / 1974 Last name at birth if different (opt): \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number: None City & State of Birth: Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C

Father/Legal Guardian: Guo-Chung Chien City & State: Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C  
First Middle Name Last

Mother/Legal Guardian: Shu-Chen Lin City & State: Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C  
First Middle Name Maiden & Last

Present Marital Status: (circle one)  Single  Widowed  Divorced  Married

If Divorced or Widowed Date:    /    /    City & State: \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Court: \_\_\_\_\_

Proof of Age\*: (circle one) Valid Drivers License  Passport  Birth Certificate  Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICANT Signature: Shih-yi Chien Shih-yi Chien

Subscribed and sworn to me this 4th day of Dec., 2008 at 10w p.m. (seal)

Notary Signature / County Clerk and Recorder/ Deputy County Clerk

Affidavit by person to be married when not appearing in person before county clerk. Properly executed, this form upon presentation is attached to marriage license application.

\*Proof of age must be presented to the County Clerk & Recorder at the time of application for a marriage license.

Shen, Yi-Chun  
Notary Public, Taipei District  
Court, Taiwan, Rep. of China

097  
Case No. 003259

Tel: 886-2-27298139 Fax: 886-2-27290509  
R-3, No. 415, Sec. 4, Xinyi Rd., Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C

Certificate #: \_\_\_\_\_

Page: \_\_\_\_\_

**AFFIDAVIT CONCERNING SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER:**

STATE OF COLORADO

County of: EL PASO

Pursuant to CRS 14-14-113 Under Oath I Swear or Affirm That I Do Not Have a Social Security Number.

Applicant Name: SHIH-YI CHIEN  
First Middle Last

Date of Birth: March 6 1974  
Month Day Year

Signature: Shihyi, Chien Shihyi Chien

Subscribed and Sworn to Before Me This 2 Day Of December, 2008  
Year



[Signature]  
Notary Public/Deputy County Clerk

097  
Case No. 003258

Shen, Yi-Chun  
Notary Public, Taipei District  
Court, Taiwan, Rep. of China

Received  
CIC No C 000168147

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### Special Power of Attorney

I, Shihyi Chien, a citizen of Taiwan R.O.C., born on 06 March 1974, want to marry William Louis Bahn, a citizen of the United States of America born on 26 January 1965, by proxy.

I understand that I will be bound by all laws of marriage even though I am not physically present at the marriage ceremony.

I am unable to attend the ceremony in person because I am a foreign national unable to reenter the United States on my present visitor visa because my intention is to remain permanently in the United States once we are married. A petition for immigrant status will be filed shortly after solemnization of this marriage.

I hereby authorize Carolyn Rose Bartley, born on 07 August 1978, to act on my behalf for the purpose of solemnizing this marriage and for this purpose only.

*Shihyi Chien*

Shihyi Chien

05.12.2008

Date

案號: 08年臺北院民認星字 日期 DEC - 8 2008  
 Case No. 081266 Date  
 本文件之簽名或蓋章, 在臺灣臺北地方法院所屬民間  
 公證人陳永星事務所認證。 公證人 陳永星  
 Attested at the Chen, Yung-Hsing Notary Public Office,  
 Taiwan Taipei District Court, R.O.C., that the  
 signature(s)/seal(s) in this document is/are  
 authentic.  
 Notary Public *Chen Yung Hsing*  
 Chen, Yang-Hsing

4F-3, No.126, Sec 3, Roosevelt Rd., Taipei