

**PEG ALLISON**  
**FLATHEAD COUNTY CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT**  
**800 South Main**  
**Kalispell, MT 59901**  
**758-5870**  
**HB 361**

- \* Montana proxy marriage option has turned into a cottage industry for many
- \* There are now no less than thirty (30) web sites advertising Montana proxy marriages
- \* Flathead County has two attorneys and three judges that work with this issue
- \* Flathead County issues an average of one proxy license every 2-3 days (approximately 12-15 per month)
- \* Flathead County issues an average of five (5) single proxy licenses each month
- \* 80% involve folks that are enlisted in the armed services
- \* Of that 80%, approx. 60% are for folks that are not residents of Montana
- \* 20% remaining consists of at least 95% for persons that are not residents of Montana
- \* Of those persons that are not in the service and not residents of Montana, 80% are not even citizens of the U.S.
- \* Very time consuming for Clerks of District Court
- \* Extremely difficult to monitor validity of proxy documentation
- \* Only about 4 Clerks of District Court in the State agree to issue a double-proxy license, so this statutory provision is not being offered to the public in most jurisdictions

EXAMPLE: I just last week received a phone call from US Army Captain, Christopher Nuneviller. He was investigating an issue of benefits for the widow of a member of the army that just died. Turns out my office had issued a double-proxy marriage license to the couple. The couple was represented by counsel and was married via proxies by a judge. Both sets of proxy paperwork were examined by the attorney and the judge. Captain Nuneviller asked if the proxies were legal because the one for the groom had been signed by the groom's father. It turns out the groom was in a coma at the time and there is no proof of any guardianship or power of attorney on behalf of the father.

The matter is being turned over to the Army JAG Corp. for review.

EXAMPLE: The very first double-proxy marriage performed in Flathead County, which was back in about 2000, was for a man in the military and an Italian woman. The groom's parents were the proxies and after it was all said and done, the license was not recognized by the country of Italy, so the couple was married 'again' in Italy.

I am finding that many foreign countries do not recognize and honor a double-proxy or single-proxy license, and that some insurance companies and states also take issue with them.

Peg Allison  
 Flathead County  
 Clerk of District Court