

Re: OT – This just in...

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From: Eliyahu Roofff (lrooff_at_hotmail.com)

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"Phyllis" <phyllisnilsson@buckeye-express.com> wrote in message news:414205CE.1040708@buckeye-express.com...

> *Marriages in the "eyes of God" aren't legal anyway. What makes a*
> *marriage legal is going through the legal system, ergo the*
marriage

> *license and someone in authority to sign it.*

>

"Legal" depends on the context. In terms of civil law, the license and some sort of ceremony (or meeting the requirements for common law marriage in some jurisdictions) is what it takes to be married. When it comes to religious law, everything changes. For example, according to halachah (Jewish religious law), a civil marriage between a Jew and a non-Jew is not valid and is not recognized. OTOH, if a Jewish couple follow the essential elements of halachah for a marriage, they're married whether the state recognizes it or not. Same thing goes with divorce. If a Jewish couple gets a civil divorce, they still have to obtain a "get" (a Jewish divorce document) or else they're still considered by halachah to be married and neither can remarry.

Eliyahu