

North Carolina Magistrate May Lose Job After Refusing to Marry Gay Couple

A magistrate in North Carolina could lose his job after he refused to marry a gay couple in Elizabeth City earlier this week.

Pasquotank County Magistrate Gary Littleton told the couple he wouldn't perform the marriage because of his religious beliefs, according to *Christian Science Monitor*.

Chief District Court Judge Christopher Bean said he sent a preliminary memo out to the magistrates late Monday that "magistrates should begin immediately conducting marriages of all couples presenting a marriage license."

Littleton reportedly refused to marry William Locklear and Randall Jackson on Tuesday.

"My understanding is that a couple came and asked to be married and he refused to marry them based upon his, I guess, religious or moral principles," Judge Bean said. "I suppose that it can be construed that he broke the law because that is a duty that the magistrate has to perform marriages."

Judge Bean says if Littleton keeps refusing to issue same-sex marriage licenses, he must resign or face removal.

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