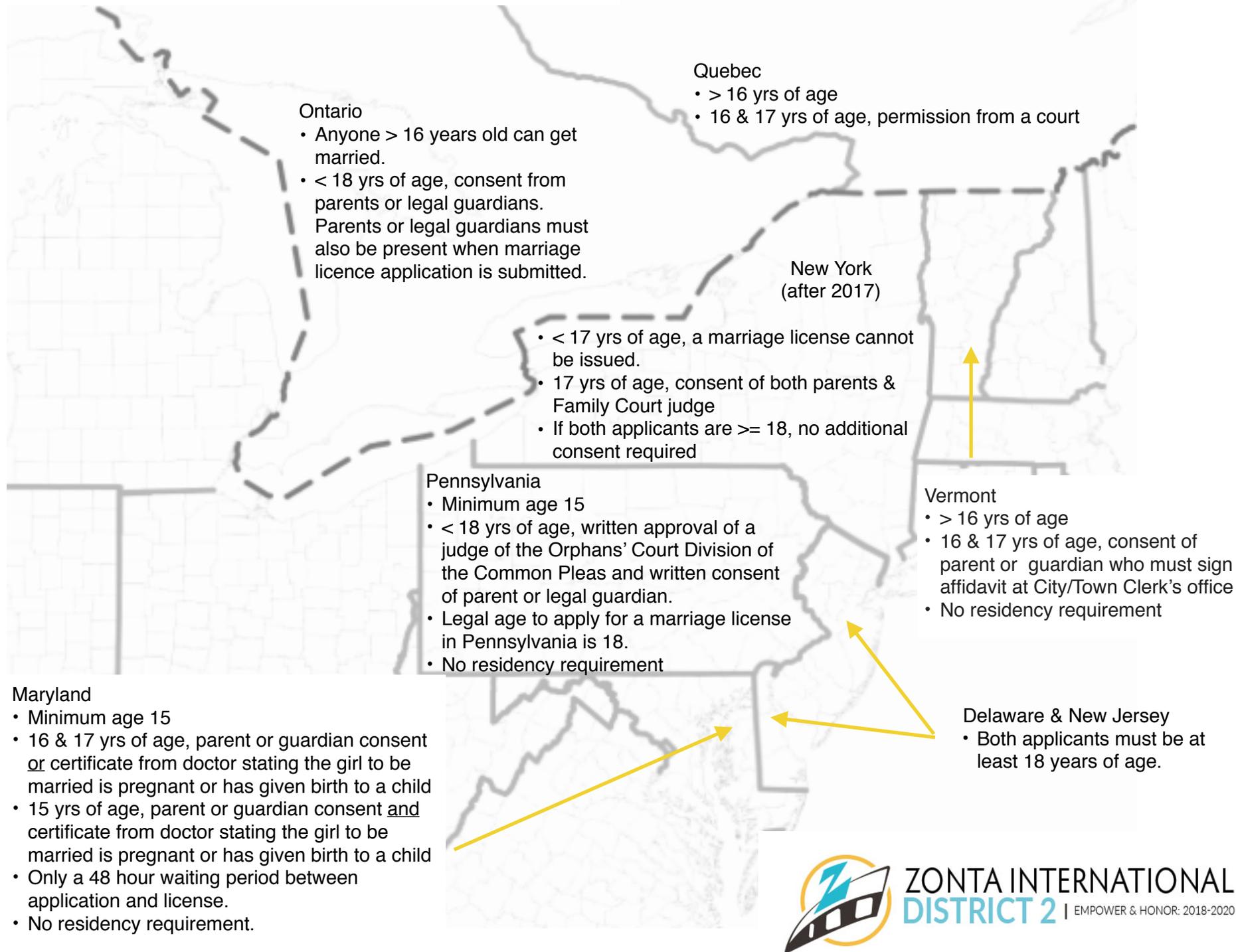


Lets stop calling it marriage: It's a crime.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, the most widely ratified human rights agreement in the world, passed by the United Nations General Assembly on 20 Nov 1989 and ratified by 193 State parties, states that everyone under the age of 18 (the definition of a child), regardless of gender, origin, religion or possible disabilities, needs special care and protection because children are often the most vulnerable.

Marriage Requirements in our Region



Marriage Statistics

Unchained at Last requested health department data on the ages of people married in New York State, where before the laws change 16- and 17-year-olds could wed with “parental consent” and 14- and 15-year-olds could wed with judicial approval. The data show that 3,853 children were married between 2000 and 2010.

New York State data show that in 2011 alone, a 14-year-old married a 26-year-old, a 15-year-old was wed to a 28-year-old, another 15-year-old was wed to a 25-year-old and a 15-year-old married someone age “35 to 39.” All of those marriages were approved by New York judges.

Health department data on the ages of people married in New Jersey, where before the laws were changed 16- and 17-year-olds could wed with parental consent, and children under 15 could marry with judicial approval show that 3,481 children were married in New Jersey between 1995 and 2012. Most were age 16 or 17 and married with parental consent, but 163 were between ages 13 and 15, meaning a judge approved their marriages. Shockingly, 91 percent of the children were married to adults, often at ages or with age differences that could have triggered statutory-rape charges, not a marriage license.

Reiss, Fraidy. “America’s Child Marriage Problem”. The New York Times. 14 Oct 2015. <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/14/opinion/americas-child-marriage-problem.html>