

I married a man on February 10th. The pastor did not file our papers (we were married at his house). We were told to take the papers to the court to file legally. Well, the guy took the papers & would not let me file. Within 2 days he had left me. He lives 2 hours away, so he had gone back to his house. He never moved in as promised. For a month and 6 days I tried working it out. I tried to understand what had happened. One minute / week I was his 'wife' and he would come stay the night then would be gone again. I cried. I prayed. I asked God for direction. On March 16 he told me that he couldn't do it. He didn't feel the same way anymore and he ripped our marriage license up and threw our papers away. I took that as my answer and God released me from that mess. But I have a friend who says that he is my husband regardless. Is he my husband, biblically? Legally I know that he's not. He never was. It's been 7 months. Can I move on? I want to do what's right. I need answers. Please!

Marriage is: one man, one woman (Ge 2:18–24) in covenant (Mt 19:6) for life (Ro 7:2, 3). One does not need a pastor or a Justice of the Peace to become married. Merely saying, “I marry you” in the presence of God is sufficient for one to be married (Dt 23:23, Jer 44:25).

God takes covenants seriously (Ex. 19:5). Betrayal or abandonment does not make you *not married*. You remain under the law of marriage until either you or he dies (Ro 7:2-3).

The apostle Paul said, “For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband (Ro 7:2).”

If you so-call marry another you will not be called *wife*; rather you will be called an *adulteress*. Paul continued, “So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress (Ro 7:3)”.

If you re-marry after the death of your husband, you are called *wife*. Paul continued, “But if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man (Ro 7:3).”

It is the church’s job to care for widows¹ and orphans (Jas 1:27). The Lord will now step into the role that your earthly husband would not keep (Is 54:4-5).

¹ or in your case one betrayed and abandoned