

Marriage License

New York State

A couple who intends to be married in New York State must apply in person for a marriage license to any town or city clerk in the state. The application for a license must be signed by both the bride and groom in the presence of the town or city clerk. A representative cannot apply for the license on behalf of the bride or groom. This applies even if the representative has been given the Power of Attorney. Notarized marriage license affidavits signed by the bride or groom cannot be substituted for their personal appearance.

A marriage license is issued immediately, however, the marriage ceremony may not take place within 24 hours from the exact time that the license was issued. When both applicants are 16 years of age or older, the 24-hour waiting period may be waived by an order of a justice of the Supreme Court or a judge of the County Court of the county in which either the bride or groom resides. If either person is under 16 years of age, the order must be from the Family Court judge of the county in which the person under 16 years of age resides.

A marriage license is valid for 60 days, beginning the day after it is issued. The marriage license is issued by a town or city clerk in New York State outside of New York City, it costs \$40. This fee includes the issuance of a Certificate of Marriage Registration. This certificate is automatically sent by the issuing clerk to the applicants within 15 days after the completed license is returned by the officiant (person who performs the marriage ceremony). It serves as notice that a record of the marriage is on file. Couples who do not receive a Certificate of Marriage Registration within four weeks of the wedding should contact the town or city clerk who issued the license.

If the license is to be issued by the City Clerk of the City of New York, please contact the New York City Clerk's Office for current fees and requirements. The City Clerk's Office can be reached at (212) 669-2400 or via their web site at [New York City Marriage Bureau](#).

No premarital examination or blood test is required to obtain a marriage license in New York State.

If both applications are 18 years of age or older, no consents are required. If either applicant is under 14 years of age, a marriage license cannot be issued. If either applicant is 14 or 15 years of age, such applicant(s) must present the written consent of both parents and a justice of the Supreme Court or a judge of the Family Court having jurisdiction over the town or city in which the application is made. If either applicant is 16 or 17 years of age, such applicant(s) must present the written consent of both parents. One parent alone may consent to a minor's marriage if:
The other parent has been missing for one year preceding the application;
The parents are divorced and the consenting parent was given sole custody of the child when the divorce decree was awarded;

The other parent has been judged incompetent; or the other parent is deceased. Parents, guardians or other people consenting to the marriage of a minor must personally appear and acknowledge or execute their consent before the town or city clerk or some other authorized official. If the notarized affidavit is made before an official outside of the State of New York, it must be accompanied by a certificate of authentication when the consent is filed in New York State.

A person is required to establish proof of age and identity by submitting to the issuing clerk one of the following age related documents:

- Birth Certificate
- Baptismal record
- Naturalization record
- Census record

And one of the following identity related documents:

- Driver's license
- Passport
- Employment picture ID
- Immigration record
- Familial Restrictions

A marriage may not take place in New York State between an ancestor and descendant, a brother and sister (full or half blood), an uncle and niece or an aunt and nephew, regardless of whether or not these persons are legitimate or illegitimate offspring.

Information regarding previous marriages must be furnished in the application for a marriage license. This includes whether the former spouse or spouses are living, and whether the applicants are divorced and, if so, when, where and against whom the divorce or divorces were granted. A certified copy of the Decree of Divorce or a Certificate of Dissolution of Marriage may be required by the clerk issuing the marriage license.

A New York State marriage license may be used within New York State only. Please note that if you go out of New York State to be married, your New York State marriage license will not be filed in New York State.

To be valid, a marriage ceremony must be performed by any of the individuals specified in Section 11 of the New York State Domestic Relations Law. These include:

- the mayor of a city or village
- the former mayor, the city clerk or one of the deputy city clerks of a city of more than one million inhabitants
- a marriage officer appointed by the town or village board or the city common council

- a justice or judge of the following courts: the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, the U.S. District Courts for the Northern, Southern, Eastern or Western Districts of New York, the New York State Court of Appeals, the Appellate Division of the New York State Supreme Court, the New York State Supreme Court, the Court of Claims, the Family Court, a Surrogates Court, the Civil and Criminal Courts of New York City (including Housing judges of the Civil Court) and other courts of record
- a village, town or county justice
- a member of the clergy or minister who has been officially ordained and granted authority to perform marriage ceremonies from a governing church body in accordance with the rules and regulations of the church body
- a member of the clergy or minister who is not authorized by a governing church body but who has been chosen by a spiritual group to preside over their spiritual affairs
- other officiants as specified by Section 11 of the Domestic Relations Law.

The person performing the ceremony must be registered with the City of New York in order to perform a ceremony within the New York City limits. The officiant does not have to be a resident of New York State. Ship captains are not authorized to perform marriage ceremonies in New York State.

Where can I get copies of my records?

For copies of marriage licenses issued anywhere in New York State except the five (5) boroughs of New York City, a certified copy of the marriage record may be obtained from the office of the town or city clerk who issued the license, or from the New York State Department of Health. The fee is \$10 if you obtain a certified copy from the town or city clerk who issued the license. If applying to the New York State Department of Health, the fee is \$30. For a certified copy, write to:

Certification Unit
Vital Records Section
New York State Department of Health
P.O. Box 2602
Albany, New York 12220-2602

For marriage licenses issued in New York City, do not apply to the New York State Department of Health. For an application, current fees and ordering information contact the City Clerk of New York at (212) 669-2400 or visit their web site at [New York City Marriage Bureau](#). You can also write them at:

New York City marriage records from 1930 to 1995 can be obtained solely from the Manhattan Office.

*MANHATTAN:
Municipal Building
1 Centre Street, Room 252 South
New York, New York 10007*

BRONX:
Supreme Court Building
851 Grand Concourse
New York, New York 10451

BROOKLYN:
Municipal Building
210 Joralemon Street, 2nd Floor, Room 205
Brooklyn, New York 11201

QUEENS:
Borough Hall Building 120-55 Queens Boulevard
Kew Gardens, New York 11424

RICHMOND:
Borough Hall Building
10 Richmond Terrace, 3rd Floor, Room 311
Staten Island, New York 10301

New Jersey

Marriage licenses may be obtained in the New Jersey municipality in which the female party to the proposed marriage lives; in the municipality in which the male party lives, if the female party is a non-resident of New Jersey; or in the municipality in which the proposed marriage is to be performed if neither party is a resident of New Jersey.

Seventy-two hour Marriage Waiver forms can be obtained in Room 1068 of the Wilentz Justice Complex, 212 Washington Street. The completed form should be taken to the 10th floor, Courtroom 15, to be signed by the Presiding Judge of the Family Division. After it has been signed by the judge, the requesting party can use the waiver to get married.

In New Jersey, any of the following individuals may solemnize or perform marriage ceremonies:

- Judges of the following courts: United States Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit, Federal District Court, Municipal Court, Superior Court and Tax Court
- Retired judges for the Superior Court, Tax Court, or a judge of the Superior Court or Tax Court who has resigned in good standing
- US Magistrates, surrogates of any county, county clerks, mayors or deputy mayors who have been authorized by the mayor to solemnize a marriage, chairmen of any township committee or village
- Ministers of every religion, religious societies, institutions and organizations may perform marriage ceremonies according to the rules and customs of the society, institution or organization