

HELLO, MY NAME IS MARISSA

Marissa is a professional wedding officiant, a nondenominational ordained minister, and views each ceremony as an opportunity to create a unique, emotional, and joyous experience.

Your wedding should actually be about... *the two of you!*

Marissa enjoys working with couples of all lifestyle and beliefs! Marissa is excited for you and will strive to ensure you are more than satisfied with your unique, personalized wedding ceremony.

Servicing couples in New Jersey and surrounding areas.

Questions & Answers

Where should I apply for a marriage License The marriage license must be obtained from the registrar in the New Jersey municipality in which either applicant resides. A license issued under the preceding circumstances is good for use anywhere in the State of New Jersey. If both parties are not residents of New Jersey, the license must be obtained from the Registrar of the municipality where the ceremony is to be performed and is only good for use in that municipality. A New Jersey marriage license may never be used outside of the State of New Jersey and a license issued in another state may never be used within the State of New Jersey. The marriage license fee is \$28.00.

When should I apply?

Important things to know:

1. You can apply for your license up to six months in advance of your wedding date.
2. Once you apply, there is a mandatory seventy-two hour waiting period. Only after this period has passed can you actually pick-up the license.
3. Once you have picked up the license, you have thirty days to use it or it will expire.
- 4.

When should I apply for a marriage License

The legal explanation:

Apply up to six months in advance of your wedding date. A local Registrar will not issue a marriage license sooner than 72 hours after the application for a license has been made, unless ordered to do so via a Superior Court order. If the ceremony is scheduled for a Saturday or Sunday, the application should be made no later than the preceding Tuesday. If the application is made on a Wednesday or Thursday, the 72 hours will end on Saturday or Sunday, but the Registrar will probably not be available on those days or any public holiday. If both parties are unavailable to complete the application at the same time, either applicant may complete his/her part of the application and start the waiting period. The other applicant must return with the same witness (who must be at least 18 years old) to complete his/her part of the application. The application must be completed by both parties before the license will be issued. The application is valid for six months from the date filed. Once the license is issued, it is good for 30 days from the date of issuance.

What do I need?

Required documents when applying for a marriage license:

- Proof of identity by presenting your driver's license, passport or state/federal ID.
- Proof of residence such as a utility bill or bank statement that shows your current address.
- Your social security card or social security number.
- A witness, 18 years of age or older.
- \$28 application fee.

These documents are helpful but not required:

- Birth Certificate to establish your parents' names and related birth information.
- If you are divorced, please bring the decree(s).
- If your former spouse is deceased, please bring the death certificate.

What should we do with the license the license has been issued to you. Do not write anything on the documents what-so-ever. You'll need to provide your officiants with all four pages of the license.

Your officiant will complete the license, collect the necessary signatures, and file it in the appropriate jurisdiction. You will also be provided with a receipt copy.

How long is the ceremony?

The length of the ceremony will depend on the service level that you select. Generally, a private elopement ceremony will be much shorter than a gold elopement ceremony. The length of the ceremony will also depend on your wishes. Generally speaking, the ceremony can range from five to thirty minutes in length. Keep in mind that there are no requirements. If you have a preference, all you have to do is let us know.

Can we include our children?

Absolutely! We're happy to include elements that will incorporate your children into the ceremony. They're a huge part of your life, and it's only right that they be part of your wedding ceremony too.

Can we include our pets?

Sit. Stay? No no no, I said Stay!

We would love to see your furry friends at your wedding ceremony! You're certainly welcomed to bring them along. Keep in mind the only limitations will be based on the location/venue of your wedding ceremony. Your officiant will not limit your pets from attending.

How far in advance should we book?

If our schedule is open (and you have a marriage license), we could marry you today. Prime dates should be booked as soon as you have a venue secured. These dates usually start to fill eight to twelve months in advance.

Do you offer same-sex marriage?

Isn't it awful that you feel the need to ask this question? There is no room in our lives for discrimination of any kind. Our requirements are simple. You must answer YES to both of the following questions:

- Do you love each other?
- Do you want to get married?

By the way, we don't use terms like gay marriage or same-sex marriage.

You don't live in a gay house or drive a gay car. So we want you to call it what it is... you know... MARRIAGE!

Do we really need witnesses?

If you're planning to be legally married in New Jersey, witnesses will be required. You'll need one witness with you at City Hall when you apply for your marriage license. On the day of the ceremony, you'll need two adult witnesses to sign off on your marriage license. This is in addition to your officiant's signature.

If needed, are you able to assist with the two witnesses at the ceremony. Unfortunately, we can not assist with witnessing your marriage license application. At application, your witnesses will need to testify, under oath, that he/she knows of no reason why the two of you can not be legally married.

Is the ceremony religious?

That is completely up to you. We offer non-denominational ceremonies and secular (non-religious) ceremonies too. Just let us know what you prefer.

Can we have a secret wedding?

A secret wedding! Can we make a secret handshake too? We're kidding....

We promise not to tell anyone, except the State of New Jersey. You know, that whole marriage license thing...

Services

If you're here, it's probably because you are looking for the right person to give you a beautiful, personalized ceremony. I am Marissa Ford, and I have presided over many ceremonies like that for couples just like you

I am a Non-Denominational Minister, Officiant and Celebrant, and will work with you to create a unique civil, religious, or spiritual ceremony customized to make your special day even more beautiful and memorable.

From a simple small wedding to a high-end luxury wedding (or an elopement, renewal, or commitment ceremony), traditional and/or contemporary ceremonies will be tailored and prepared to your satisfaction in a comfortable and caring collaboration.

WHAT ARE YOU EXPECTING FROM YOUR WEDDING CEREMONY?



Would you like the ceremony to be:

Fun and Interesting?

Entertaining and Engaging?

Captivating? **Not Boring?**

All of the above!



A Customized Ceremony

We will work together, in an in-person planning session! I'll guide you through the welcome, the vows, the ring exchange, the pronouncement and other options, to create **your wedding ceremony!**



A Personalized Ceremony

Your relationship is unique! How you met, your engagement, and love each other is **magical!**

Your Love Story Wedding is about sharing your unique story with your friends and family, **on your day.**