

MARRIAGE LICENSE Q&A

Q: Where can I apply for a marriage license?

A: A marriage license can be obtained from any Texas County, regardless of the County or State you currently reside. A marriage license is issued out of every County Clerk's office in every Texas County.

Q: How do I apply for a marriage license?

A: Both the bride and the groom must appear to apply for a marriage license and both will sign the application at that time. There are few exceptions as noted in the Texas Statutes.

Q: What is the fee for the marriage license?

A: There is an \$11.00 fee if a marriage education certificate (described below) is presented; otherwise, there is a \$71.00 fee without the certificate that is payable only in CASH or current credit or debit card which, if used, will add a 3% surcharge to the original fee. We will not accept a check for a marriage license. Only certificates from Twogether In Texas qualify for discount.

Q: How and where do I obtain the marriage education certificate and what is the cost?

A: Texas now encourages free marriage education classes around the state for premarital couples. After completing the class, you will get a certificate that you can take to your County Clerk when applying for your marriage license. When applying for a marriage license using the marriage education certificate, you not only will receive a \$60 discount on the fee for the license, but also the 72-hour waiting period will be waived. To find a class in your area, log onto <http://www.twogetherintexas.com> or <http://thehappy-family.com>.

Q: How long must I wait between the time I get my marriage license and the actual marriage ceremony?

A: There must be at least 72 hours between the time of issuance of a marriage license and the time the ceremony occurs unless one applicant is on active duty in the armed forces; or, completion of a marriage education class; or, a waiver is granted. A waiver may only be granted by a County Judge or District Judge.

Q: How long do I have to use the purchased Marriage License before it expires?

A: 90 days. If the Marriage License is not used within 90 days, it will expire and another one will need to be purchased before a marriage ceremony is held.

Q: What are the requirements to obtain a license?

A: The requirements are as follows:

- proof of identity and age (current Drivers' License or State Identification Card, or other document issued by the State or another State, United States or a foreign Country, or a certified copy of applicant's Birth Certificate – if in Spanish, the Birth Certificate must be translated into English by a certified translator)

- a person under 18 years of age may not marry unless the person has been granted by this state or another state a court order removing the disabilities of minority of the person for general purposes. In addition to the other requirements for proof of identity, a person under 18 years of age applying for a license must provide to the County Clerk a certified copy of the court order granted by this state removing the disabilities of minority of the person for general purposes; or if the person is a nonresident minor, a certified copy of an order removing the disabilities of minority of the person for general purposes filed with this state under Section 31.007
- must have or know social security number, birth place (city, county, state)
- a divorce by either party must be final 30 days prior to the marriage license application
- there is no law requiring a blood test

Q: After the wedding, what do I need to do with the marriage license?

A: The license will need to be mailed or brought back to the County Clerk's office that issued the marriage license. The license will be recorded into the Official Public Records and will be returned to you within 7-10 days of receiving it in the County Clerk's office.

For questions and information in reference to an absent applicant, please call.

DECLARATION OF INFORMAL MARRIAGE Q&A

Q: Q: Where can I apply for a Declaration of Informal Marriage?

A: A Declaration of Informal Marriage Certificate can be obtained from any Texas County, regardless of the County or State you currently reside. A Declaration of Informal Marriage Certificate is issued out of every County Clerk's office in every Texas County.

Q: How do I apply for a Declaration of Informal Marriage?

A: Both parties must appear to apply and both will sign the certificate at that time.

Q: What is the fee for a Declaration of Informal Marriage?

A. There is a \$36.00 fee payable only in CASH or current credit or debit card, which, if used, will add a 3% surcharge to the original fee. We will not accept a check for a Declaration of Informal Marriage.

Q: How is a Declaration of Informal Marriage different than a Marriage License?

A: Couples in an informal marriage may wish to make it a matter of record without formal ceremony. To accomplish this, the couple must sign a declaration and file it with the County Clerk. A person who is presently married, and the current spouse is not the other party to the informal marriage, may not be a party to or file a declaration of an informal marriage. A person under the age of 18 may not be a party to an informal marriage, and may not execute a declaration of informal marriage.

For additional information please call 806-379-2275