



## Town Clerk

### Marriage Licenses

#### How to Get a Marriage License

Couples marrying in Rhode Island must apply for a license at the Town Clerk's Office. The license is valid for three months after the issuance date. The ceremony must take place in the presence of the officiant (the person performing the marriage) and two witnesses age 18 or older.

#### What Both Applicants Must Do

Both people must apply for the license in person and sign the application in the presence of the Town Clerk or his or her designee.

#### Rhode Island residents:

If both applicants live in Rhode Island, apply for the license from the town clerk of the residence of either applicant. The marriage license is valid in any city or town in Rhode Island and the couple may be married anywhere in Rhode Island.

If one applicant lives in Rhode Island, the license must be issued from that applicant's city/town of residence.

#### Non-residents:

If neither applicant lives in Rhode Island, the marriage license must be obtained at the city or town clerk's office where the ceremony will take place. Rhode Island law states that the marriage license is valid only in the city or town in which it was issued. If the ceremony is performed in a city or town other than where it was issued, the validity of the marriage may be in question.

#### Provide required identification and legal documents

- Certified Copies of birth certificates and a valid government issued picture ID.
  - PLEASE NOTE: The State of RI no longer accepts wallet-size birth certificates.
  - There are two ways to request a copy of a Rhode Island birth certificate: by mail or in person.
    - By mail: Birth certificates can be obtained sending a completed application and payment to the Office of Vital Records, Room 101, Cannon Building, 3 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908-5097 or to the city or town where the mother lived when the baby was born. If you are requesting a birth certificate from Cumberland you can mail the request to 45 Broad Street, Cumberland, RI 02864 to the attention of Vital



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Records. If you send for a birth certificate through the mail, you must include a photocopy of your driver's license and self-addressed stamped envelope. [Click here](#) for an application and further information.

- In person: For individuals born **before** January 1, 1960, requests must be made in person at the city or town hall where the mother lived when the baby was born.
  - For individuals born in Rhode Island **after** December 31, 1959, requests can be made at any Rhode Island Town or City Hall.
- Proof That Previous Marriages, Civil Unions or Registered Domestic Partnerships Have Ended
  - If either applicant has been previously married, civilly united or in a registered domestic partnership, and the previous marriage, civil union or registered domestic partnership ended in divorce, dissolution or death, that person must present a certified copy of the FINAL decree of divorce or dissolution, or a certified copy of the death certificate. PHOTOCOPIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
- The couple must give the license to the officiant. The license must be filed with the city or town office where the license was issued within 72 hours of the ceremony. Once filed, the bride and groom can obtain a certified copy of the marriage. [Click here](#) for the application.

### **Permit to Marry for Minors and Persons Under Legal Guardianship**

A Minor's Permit to Marry must be completed for any applicant under the control of a parent or guardian if 16 or 17 years of age. The permit may be obtained from the Town Clerk where the license will be issued and should be signed and notarized in the presence of the city or town clerk issuing the license.

Applicants under the age of 16 cannot get a marriage license in the state of Rhode Island without the approval of Family Court.

### **Marriage License Fee**

Marriage licenses cost \$24.

### **Accurate information**

Any person who willfully and knowingly supplies false information intending that the information be used in the preparation of a marriage license shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than one year, or both, pursuant to Section 23-3-28 of the RI General Laws.