

Day-Of Marriage License Checklist
Complete this before your visit to the county clerk's office

My County: _____ State: _____ Appt. Date/Time: _____
Office Address: _____ Phone: _____ Fee Amount: \$ _____

✓ Always Required — Both Applicants

- Valid government-issued photo ID (not expired)
Driver's license, state ID, U.S. passport, or military ID. Foreign passports accepted in most states.
- Social Security Number (memorized or card)
Required on the application form. Physical card usually not needed — just know your number.
- Application fee — exact amount: \$ _____
Accepted forms vary by county: cash, card, money order. Personal checks rarely accepted.
- Both applicants present at the same time
Required in nearly all states. Call ahead if one party has a documented reason they cannot attend.

■ If Either Applicant Was Previously Married

- Certified copy of divorce decree
Required if divorced, especially within the past 6–12 months. Must be an official certified copy — not a photocopy.
- Exact date and state the divorce was finalized
The application will ask for this. Know month, day, and year.
- Certified copy of former spouse's death certificate (if widowed)
Required if widowed. Must be an official certified copy.
- Check for post-divorce waiting period in your state
Texas: 30 days. Nebraska: 6 months. Wisconsin: 6 months (waivable). Most states: none.

■ Know Your Waiting Period

State	Wait	Waivable?
Texas	72 hours	Yes — by judge
Illinois	24 hours	No
Florida	3 days	Yes (non-residents / course)
South Carolina	24 hours	Yes (non-residents)
Maryland	48 hours	Yes (residents)

Michigan	3 days	Yes — by judge
Minnesota	5 days	Yes — by judge
Wisconsin	5 days	Yes — by judge
Washington	3 days	Yes — by judge
Most other states	None	N/A

■ License Validity — Don't Let It Expire

My issue date: _____ | Validity window: _____ | Expiration date: _____

10 days	Oklahoma
30 days	Alabama, Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Louisiana, Missouri, West Virginia, Wisconsin
33 days	Michigan
60 days	Illinois, Indiana, NC, NY, Ohio, Oregon, PA, VA, Washington
90 days	California, Florida, Maine, New Hampshire, Texas
1 Year	Alaska, Arizona, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Nevada, Tennessee

✓ After the Ceremony

■ Officiant signs the marriage license

Must happen at the ceremony — the officiant signs the return portion of the license.

■ Officiant returns the signed license to the county clerk

Most states require return within 10–30 days. Confirm the timeframe with your officiant.

■ Order certified copies of the marriage certificate

Order at least 4–6 copies. Cost: \$10–\$21 each depending on county. Needed for SSA, DMV, passport, banks.

■ Begin name change (if applicable) — SSA first, then DMV, then passport

See marriagelicenselocal.com/articles/name-change.html for the complete step-by-step guide.

This checklist is for informational use only. Requirements vary by county and state and can change without notice. Always confirm current fees, hours, and document requirements directly with your county clerk before visiting. MarriageLicenseLocal.com is not affiliated with any government agency. Not legal advice.