



Getting Married in Michigan

Don't let your plans get derailed because you let this go too long or couldn't find your birth certificate in time or whatever. Here's all the information you need to know about getting your marriage license. Get organized and then make the trip to the county clerk's office with your intended about a month in advance of the wedding date.

Residency

You do not have to be a resident of Michigan to obtain a marriage license, however the fee is \$10.00 more for non-residents. You should apply for your marriage license in the county where you live. This license is valid anywhere in Michigan. If you are a non-resident, you should apply for the license in the county where you plan to be married. NOTE: non-resident licenses are valid in the county of application only.

Age Requirements

Persons who are 16 or 17 years of age may contract a legal marriage with the written consent of their parent or legal guardian. The parent or guardian must come with you to the clerk's office at the time you apply. Guardians must supply proof of guardianship. Anyone older than 17 is "good to go."

License Application Fee

The fee is \$20.00 for residents and \$30.00 for non-residents. HINT: Bring cash as some offices may not accept checks or debit cards. WARNING: Some clerks offices may charge more so be prepared to pay more if necessary.

Things You Need To Bring With You To The Clerk's Office

- Picture ID such as Driver's License, Michigan State ID, Military ID, you can even use your DD-214 discharge papers.
- Certified copy of your birth certificate. If you are not a citizen, the birth certificate must be translated into English and the translation notarized.
- Your parent's full names, their addresses and your mother's maiden name. You will also need the birthplace of each parent.
- If either you or your partner has ever been married before, you will need to bring proof of the final divorce decree. This document must be left with the clerk.

Important Information

There is a mandatory three-day waiting period before you can pick up your license. The license expires 30 days after you get it so that gives you a total of 33 days from the day you apply in which to complete your wedding ceremony.

New Rules For 2007!

Due to changes in the law at the end of 2006 there are some new things you need to be aware of:

1. City Mayors can legally conduct a ceremony *anywhere within the county* where their city is located.
2. Both the bride and groom are required to sign the license with their new *complete legal married name*.
3. All official witnesses (the ones that sign the license) of the ceremony must be *at least 18 years of age*.
4. The person performing the ceremony (Mayor, Magistrate, clergy, etc.) now has *only 10 days* to deliver the completed and signed license to the county clerk's office.

Here is a list of the county clerk's offices in the counties closest to us.

Newaygo County Clerk

1087 Newell Street, P.O. Box 885
White Cloud, MI 49349
Phone: 231-689-7235
Fax: 231-689-7241
8:00 to 5:00

Muskegon County Clerk

990 Terrace
Muskegon, MI 49442
Phone: 231-724-6221
Fax: 231-724-6262
located on the 2nd Floor of the County
Building, 990 Terrace St., Muskegon, MI
49442.
8:00 to 5:00

Kent County Clerk

County Administration Building 1st floor
300 Monroe N.W.
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Phone: 616-336-3550
Fax: 616-336-2885
8:00 to 5:00

Oceana County Clerk

100 State Street, Suite 1
Hart, MI 49420
Phone: 231-873-4328
Fax: 231-873-5914
9:00 to 5:00

Mecosta County Clerk

400 Elm Street Room 131
Big Rapids, MI 49307
Phone: 231-592-0783
Fax: 231-592-0193
8:30 to 5:00

Getting a Certified Copy of your Marriage Certificate

Write or call:

Office of Vital Records
3423 North Martin Luther King Boulevard
P.O. Box 30195
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 335-8656