



Wedding Preparation

MARRIAGE LICENSE

Everything you need to know to take your relationship to the next level...legally!

Planning a wedding requires so much attention to detail that it's easy to overlook the basics. Getting married is a legal act, and it will require one basic detail to make your union official: a marriage license. Obtaining a marriage license is a very simple procedure involving only a short trip to the probate court located in your residing county courthouse.

If either you or your fiancé reside in the state of Ohio, one applicant must provide proof of residency in that county. Even though you may get married in a different county within Ohio, you must apply for the marriage license in the county in which you live. If neither of you is a resident of Ohio but plan on getting married within the state, you must apply and get married within the same county. If you are an Ohio resident but are getting married in another state, you must apply in the other state.

Some counties in the state of Ohio DO have a waiting period to receive your license, so it would be wise to apply a few weeks early.

Licenses are valid for sixty days before use.

You will want extra certified copies of your license. They'll need to be submitted when applying to change your name and to update your social security card, driver's license, and passport with your new married name.

Requirements vary from county to county, so if you have any further questions call the Marriage License Department at your issuing county's courthouse. Remember, most government offices are closed on holidays and have specific hours.

Contrary to popular belief, a blood test is not required in Ohio.

After the wedding, your officiant will send your signed license to the Marriage License Bureau. It is then the couple's responsibility to request a copy of their marriage license from the court for a small fee.

What You'll Need...

- Birth Certificates (proof of age)
- Photo Identification
- Proof of Citizenship and/or Residency
- Death Certificate if widowed
- Divorce Decree if divorced
- Cash for associated fees
- Parental consent if underage

The following is a brief overview of requirements for the surrounding counties.

ASHTABULA COUNTY
440-576-3451
25 W. Jefferson St.,
Jefferson

CARROLL COUNTY
330-627-2323
119 S. Lisbon St., Suite 202
Carrollton

COLUMBIANA COUNTY
330-424-9516
105 S. Market St.,
Lisbon

COSCHOCTON COUNTY
740-622-1837
426 Main St.,
Coschocton

CUYAHOGA COUNTY
216-443-8920
1 Lakeside Ave. W.,
Room 129,
Cleveland

ERIE COUNTY
419-627-7752
323 Columbus Ave., 2nd Floor,
Sandusky

GEAUGA COUNTY
440-226-4446
231 Main St., 2nd Floor,
Chardon

HOLMES COUNTY
330-674-5881
1 E. Jackson St., Suite 201
Millersburg

HURON COUNTY
419-668-4383
2 E. Main St., Room 106,
Norwalk

LAKE COUNTY
440-350-2626
25 North Park Pl.,
Painesville

LORAIN COUNTY
440-329-5295
225 Court St., 6th Floor,
Elyria

MAHONING COUNTY
330-740-2310
120 Market St., 1st Floor,
Youngstown

MEDINA COUNTY
330-725-9703
225 E. Washington St., 4th Floor,
Medina

PORTAGE COUNTY
330-297-3871
203 W. Main St.,
Ravenna

STARK COUNTY
330-451-7755
110 Central Plaza South,
Suite 501,
Canton

SUMMIT COUNTY
330-643-2346
209 S. High St.,
Akron

TRUMBULL COUNTY
330-675-2521
161 High St. NW,
Warren

TUSCARAWAS COUNTY
330-365-3244
101 E. High Ave.,
New Philadelphia

WAYNE COUNTY
330-287-5577
107 W. Liberty St.,
Wooster

Information provided is subject to change.

Name game

If you've decided to change your last name, the easiest way to apply for the name change is at the same time as you apply for your Marriage License. It will save you extra paperwork, time, and money. You'll receive a simple form to submit to the Social Security Administration, and you're on your way.

If you decide to wait until after your honeymoon, be sure to request at least three certified copies of your marriage license (they're certified if they have a raised seal). Once the court grants your name change, proceed to change your Social Security Card and Driver's License before contacting your bills, banks, and mail subscriptions.

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