



How to Apply for a Marriage License

The circuit courts of Maryland issue marriage licenses. This tip sheet and accompanying video can provide you with

more information on where to apply for the license, what you will need, the paperwork to complete, and when to perform the ceremony.

Who Can Apply

- You can apply for a marriage license if you and your future spouse are at least 18 years old, neither of you are married to another person, and the two of you are not closely related.
- If you are 17 years old you may be able to petition the court to marry, depending on your situation.

Where to Apply

- Apply for the marriage license at the circuit court clerk's office.
- You must go to the circuit court in the county in which you plan to perform the ceremony. You cannot go to a different circuit court.

What to Bring with you to Apply

- Only one person needs to be present to apply for a marriage license.
- You will need each person's full legal name, address, age, state and county of birth, and social security number.
- You will need the birth certificates or other official documentation for each person to demonstrate their age.
- If either person previously obtained a divorce, you will need the date of the divorce order, and the state and county in which the order was granted. If the marriage ended due to death, you will need the death certificate and the county and state in which the death occurred.
- You will need to pay an application fee. Contact the court for the correct amount and payment method.

Paperwork

- The clerk will provide you with a marriage license application form.
- Always review the application for accuracy before submitting it. You will take an oath that the information provided is true to the best of your information, knowledge, and belief.
- You may be able to apply for the marriage license by mail using a non-resident affidavit.
- After you submit the application, the clerk will give you three papers: the original marriage license, the officiant's copy, and the clerk's copy.

When to Perform the Ceremony

- You may not perform the ceremony until 6:00 a.m. on the second calendar day after the marriage license was issued.
- You must perform the ceremony within 6 months from when the marriage license was issued.

Watch the Video



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The Ceremony

- A clerk of the court can perform the ceremony at the courthouse.
- An officiant can perform the ceremony. The officiant must be an official of a religious group and authorized by that group to perform marriage ceremonies.
- Bring copies of the marriage license to the ceremony and have the officiant fill out all paperwork.
- Return the completed copies of the marriage license to the courthouse.