

Marriage Licenses

View information on getting married in New York State: [Getting Married in NYS](https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/4210/index)

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FAQs

- **What do I need to do to get a marriage license?**
 - A couple who intends to be married in New York State must apply in person for a marriage license to any town or city in the state. Applicants need:
 - Proof of Age – one of the following:
 - Original birth certificate with a raised seal or certified copy
 - Baptismal Record
 - Naturalization Record
 - Census Record
 - Proof of Identity – one of the following:
 - Driver's License
 - Passport
 - Employment Picture ID
 - Immigration Record
 - Remit the \$40.00 (cash or check) fee
 - Information regarding previous marriages must be furnished in the application for a marriage license.
 - This includes whether the former spouse or spouses are living, and whether the applicants are divorced and, if so when, where, and against whom the divorce or divorces were granted.
 - A certified copy of the Decree of Divorce or a Certificate of Dissolution of Marriage must be presented to the clerk issuing the marriage license.
 - Copy of the death certificate if the former spouse is no longer living.
- **Is there a waiting period?**
 - Yes. After purchasing a marriage license, the couple must wait 24 hours before getting married. After the 24 hours waiting period, the license is valid for 60 days.
- **How much does the license cost?**
 - The \$40.00 fee for the license includes the issuance of a Certification of Marriage Registration. This certificate is automatically sent by the issuing clerk to the applicants within 15 days after the completed license is returned by the officiant (*person who performs the ceremony*).
- **What are the age requirements?**
 - In New York State, no parental consent is required for applicants who are 18 years of age and older.
- **What do I do about my last name?**
 - Every person has the right to adopt any name by which he or she wishes to be known simply by using that name consistently and without intent to defraud.
 - A person's last name does not automatically change upon marriage, and neither party to the marriage is required to change his or her name. One or both parties to a marriage may elect to change the last name by which he or she wishes to be known after the marriage by entering the new name in the appropriate space provided on the marriage license. The new name must consist of one of the following options:
 - The surname of the other spouse
 - Any former surname of either spouse
 - A name combining into a single surname all or a segment of the pre-marriage surname or any former surname of each spouse.

- A combination name separated surname is the pre-marriage surname, or any former surname, of each of the spouses.
- Whether you decide to use or not to use this option at the time of your marriage license application, you still have the right to adopt a difference name through usage at some future date. However, your marriage license CANNOT be change to record a surname you decide to use after your marriage.
- **Do I need to notify Social Security?**
 - If you elect to change your name, you must notify Social Security to have your name changed in their records. There is no charge for this service.
- **How do I get a copy of my marriage record?**
 - A certified copy of the marriage record may be obtained from the office of the Town or City Clerk who issued the license (fee \$10.00), or from the New York State Department of Health (fee \$30.00).
 - To request a copy of a marriage certificate from Town or City Clerk in person, you must:
 - Download the [Application for Copy of Marriage Record \(PDF\)](https://www.health.ny.gov/forms/doh-4382.pdf) or complete an application form available from the clerk.
 - <https://www.health.ny.gov/forms/doh-4382.pdf>
 - Remit the \$10.00 (cash or check) fee.
 - Present Identification
 - Please note that because of the personal information contained on a marriage certificate, the Town or City Clerk will not give a copy of a marriage license to anyone except the bide or groom. Marriage licenses copies **CANNOT** be picked by or mailed to children, Parents, or friends of the bride and groom.