

## Marriage License Information

### Applying for a Marriage License

If the bride, or groom, is a resident of New Jersey, the marriage license must be obtained from the Registrar of Vital Statistics in the municipality where **either person** lives. If one applicant is a non-resident of New Jersey, and other applicant is a resident of New Jersey, the license must be obtained from the Registrar in the municipality in which the NJ resident resides. For marriage license purposes, soldiers are residents of the posts at which they are stationed.

- A marriage license will not be issued sooner than 72 hours after the application for a marriage license has been made, unless ordered to do so via an appropriate court order.
- If the marriage is scheduled for a Saturday or Sunday, the application should be made no later than the preceding Tuesday. If the application is made on a Wednesday or Thursday, the 72 hours will end on Saturday or Sunday, but the Registrar will probably not be available on those days or any public holiday.
- If both the bride and groom are unavailable to complete the application at the same time, either applicant may complete his/her part of the application and start the waiting period. The other applicant must return with the same witness (who must be at least 18 years old) to complete his/her part of the application. The application must be completed by both parties before the license will be issued. Once the marriage license is issued, it is good for 30 days from the date of issuance.
- A couple wishing to have both religious and civil ceremonies may be issued a license for both ceremonies on the basis of a single application. However, a couple wishing to have two religious ceremonies, and wanting to have a public record of each, may not have two licenses issued at the same time. They must apply for and use the first license. They must then return to the Registrar with the signed original certificate of the marriage and a witness to apply for a remarriage license.
- If both bride and groom are nonresidents of New Jersey, the license must be obtained from the Registrar of the municipality where the marriage is to be performed and is only good for use in that municipality.
- A license may never be used outside of New Jersey and a license issued in another state may never be used in New Jersey.

### What you should bring with you?

- Proof of your residency: drivers license, lease, tax bill, tax return, photo ID
- A copy of your birth certificate, driver's license, passport or state I.D.
- Your social security card or social security number (SSN), as per NJSA 37:1-17 (your SSN is not subject to *Right to Know* laws and will be kept confidential).
- If you are divorced, or have had your marriage annulled, bring the divorce decree or the civil annulment documents.
- A witness (18 years or older) who knows both the male and female applicants
- If your former spouse is deceased, a Death certificate
- A \$20.00 fee, payable by cash or money order - personal checks are NOT accepted
- If any documents are in a foreign language, they must be accompanied by an English translation
- Consent of both parents is necessary if an applicant is under 18 years of age.
- If the applicant is younger than 16, both parental consents and judicial approval of such consents are necessary - on forms supplied by the Registrar

If you get the marriage license off the Internet prior to going to the Municipal Registrar DO NOT SIGN. You must sign the application, while under oath, in the presence of the issuing authority.

### Where should the marriage record be filed?

The person performing a marriage ceremony must file the license and marriage certificate with the Registrar of the municipality in which the marriage was performed. Since failure to record the marriage may cause considerable inconvenience at a later date when proof of marriage is needed, you should make sure that this has been done.

Certified copies of the marriage event may be obtained from the local Registrar in the municipality where the ceremony occurred or from the Office of the State Registrar of Vital Statistics.