

Marriage License & Ceremony FAQ's

Marriage Licenses

- Q.** Does the couple need to make an appointment for a Marriage License?
- A.** *No. Our Clerk hours are Monday-Friday (excluding holidays) from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A couple may come in at anytime during those hours to apply for the license.*
- Q.** What information does the couple need to bring when applying for a marriage license?
- A.** *The couple should have the following:*
- ✓ *Valid identification showing both date of birth and picture (ie: Drivers license, Passport, Military Service Card, Naturalization Certificate, or Alien Registration card)*
 - ✓ *If the couple has been divorced within the last 90 days, they must bring a copy of the final judgment showing the official file date of the dissolution*
 - ✓ *\$65 cash only. Exact change needed. We do not accept checks or credit cards.*
- Q.** Do both parties to the marriage need to be present when applying for a marriage license?
- A.** *Yes*
- Q.** How long does it take to process the license?
- A.** *Approximately 15 minutes*
- Q.** Is a blood test required?
- A.** *No. A blood test is no longer required.*
- Q.** How long is the marriage license valid?
- A.** *The license is valid for 90 days. The couple must perform the ceremony no later than 90 days after receiving the license. If the license is expired, the couple **MUST** purchase a new license.*
- Q.** If the license is obtained in Lake County does that mean the couple needs to be married in Lake County also?
- A.** *No. The license is valid in any county within the State of California; however, it must be recorded in the same county where it was issued.*

- Q.** Where can the couple get an application for a marriage license?
- A.** *For their convenience, the application is located on our website <http://www.lakecountyca.gov/Government/Directory/CountyClerk/marriage/License.htm>. If they do not have access to the internet, an application is available at the Clerk's office.*
- R.** Is the couple married once they obtain a marriage license?
- A.** *No. A ceremony must take place in order for couple to be legally married.*

Marriage Ceremonies:

- Q.** Who can perform a marriage ceremony?
- A.** *In California, marriage ceremonies may be performed by any of the following who is of the age of 18 years or older:*
- *Priests, rabbis, or ministers of any religious denomination*
 - *Commissioners of Civil Marriages*
 - *Judges*
 - *Legislators or Constitutional Officers of this state, or a member of Congress who represents a district within this state, while the official holds office*
 - *Mayor of a city while the official holds office*
 - *County Supervisors while the official holds office*
- R.** What days is the Clerk's office available to perform civil ceremonies?
- A.** *Our office is available to perform civil ceremonies in English or Spanish on Wednesday and Friday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. or 3:00 p.m.*
- S.** What is the fee for the ceremony?
- A.** *The fee is \$43.00 cash only (This in addition to the marriage license fee of \$65.00)*
- T.** Does the couple need to provide a witness?
- A.** *Yes. The couple is encouraged to provide at least one witness. If they are unable to provide a witness, we may provide one for an additional fee of \$48.00 cash only.*
- U.** What time should the couple arrive for the ceremony?
- A.** *We ask that the couple, along with the witness(s) arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to their scheduled ceremony.*

Deputy Commissioner for a Day:

- Q.** Do you have a friend or family member who you would like to perform your marriage ceremony? If so, we may be able to assist you.
- A.** *Pursuant to Section 401 (a) and (b) of the California Family Code, the County Clerk may appoint someone as a Deputy Commission for a day.*
- R.** What is required for someone to be deputized?
- A.** *The following is a list of requirements for the Deputy Commissioner for a Day:*
- ✓ *The person applying must be at least 18 years of age.*
 - ✓ *The person applying must be present with an ID. (the couple does not need to be present)*
 - ✓ *The marriage license must have been issued in Lake County.*
 - ✓ *A date must be set for the wedding ceremony.*
- S.** What is the fee for a Deputy Commissioner for a Day?
- A.** *The fee is \$68.00 cash only*
- T.** Where can a person get the application for a Deputy Commissioner for a Day?
- A.** *For their convenience, the application is located on our website: <http://www.lakecountycalifornia.gov/Government/Directory/CountyClerk/marriage/Commissioner.htm>. If they do not have access to the internet, an application is available at the Clerk's office.*