

MASSACHUSETTS MARRIAGE LICENSE*

ASPECT	LAW	NOTES
Out-of-State Marriage	Recognized	
Common Law Marriage	Prohibited	or by court order, for residents from other states, if legal in resident state
Application	Yes	both partners must be present at application
Proxy Application	Prohibited	waivers for military service or incarceration
Application Location	Clerk Office	in any town hall or city hall within the State
Residency	Not necessary	must meet legal requirements of resident state
Age	18+	waivers by court order: applicant, guardian, and partner must be at court
Proof of Age	If under 24	birth certificate or passport
Identification Type	Photo ID	state ID, driving license, or passport
Social Security Number	Yes	a federal statute
Polygamy	Prohibited	as of July 8, 1832 federally
Previous Marriage	90 days	after divorce completion at date of application
Blood Test	No	as of January 28, 2005
Consanguinity Limit	Below 4th degree	first-cousins may marry
Sexual Orientation	None	as of May 17, 2004
Cost	\$4 to \$50 / average \$25	varies Statewide
Payment	Cash/Check/Money Order	
Waiting Period	3 consecutive days	waivers by court order or by physician
License Jurisdiction	Statewide	effective in any community in the State
License Validity	60 days	from date of application
Marriage Officiation	Yes	by ordained ministers, commissioned Justices of the Peace, or State authorizations
Out-of-State Officiant	Permissible	must file petition with the State, six (6) weeks prior to marriage
Special Officiant	Permissible	must file an application with \$25 and reference letter to the State, six (6) weeks prior to marriage
Officiation Ink	Black	only
Marriage Witnesses	Not necessary	some religious beliefs may require witnesses
Return of License	10 days	after the marriage, by the officiant to the clerk

*This information is only legal guidance not legal advice. Marriage law is subject to change within federal, state, county, and/or municipal jurisdiction. Confer with an authorized official for the current laws of the corresponding jurisdiction(s) of the marriage application and officiation.