



City Clerk's Department

MARRIAGE LICENCE REQUIREMENTS

Marriage Licence Office
Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday

LICENCE FEE: \$120.00 Cash – Debit Cards Accepted
(Effective January 10, 2011)

- * Application form must be fully completed and signed by **both parties**.
- * Identification required for all applicants:
Birth certificate or passport
AND
Photo identification
- * Applicants under the age of 18 require both parents consent. Please see issuer for further details.
- * Marriage Licences can only be issued personally to the **bride and/or groom**. If only one of you is present you **must** have the other's birth certificate **and** photo identification with you.
- * If you have previously been married, we require you to present:
 - * The original or court certified copy of the **Decree Absolute or Certificate of Divorce**. This document is required for recording purposes only and is **not** retained by this office.
 - * If the divorce was granted outside Canada, please see issuer for further details.
 - * Previously married brides must fill out the application using their maiden name. The former married name would only be used if there had been a legal name change at the time of the marriage.
- * The licence is valid anywhere in Ontario and is **valid for three months** from the date of issue.
- * There are no requirements respecting blood tests or residency.



Form with columns for APPLICANT and JOINT APPLICANT. Fields include: LAST NAME, FIRST AND MIDDLE NAMES, MARITAL STATUS, COURT FILE NUMBER, CITY DIVORCE GRANTED IN, RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION, AGE, DATE OF BIRTH, PROVINCE, FATHER'S NAME, MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME, FATHER'S PLACE OF BIRTH, MOTHER'S PLACE OF BIRTH, PRESENT RESIDENCE OR POSTAL ADDRESS, PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE, INTENDED PLACE OF MARRIAGE, COUNTY OR DISTRICT, INTENDED DATE OF MARRIAGE, SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, SIGNATURE OF JOINT APPLICANT, DATE.

Personal Information contained on this form is collected under the authority of the Marriage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M. 3 and will be used to determine whether to issue the marriage licence, to register and record the marriage, provide certified copies, extracts, certificates, search notices, photocopies and for statistical, research, medical, law enforcement, adoption and adoption disclosure purposes. Questions about this collection should be directed to:

Who may marry

Any person who is at least 18 years of age may marry. No person under 16 years of age may marry. Any person who is 16 or 17 years of age (other than a widowed or divorced person) may marry with the written consent of his/her parents or legal guardians. A special consent form is available for this purpose from your local Municipal Office.

If any person whose consent is required is unavailable or refuses to consent, an application may be made to a judge to dispense with consent.

A person whose previous marriage has been dissolved or annulled will require:

- a) If the marriage was dissolved or annulled in Canada, the original or court-certified copy of the final decree, judgment or certificate of divorce dissolving or annulling the marriage; or
- b) If the marriage was dissolved or annulled outside of Canada, the authorization of the Minister of Government Services. This requirement is explained in more detail below; or
- c) Where the earlier marriage of one of the parties was terminated by the **presumed** death of a spouse, a court order declaring the death of the spouse must be obtained. An issuer of Marriage Licences can provide more information upon request.

How one marries

A marriage may be solemnized under the authority of a licence or the publication of banns.

1) Marriage Licence

A licence to marry may be obtained from the issuer of Marriage Licences at your local Municipal Clerk's Office. At least one party to the proposed marriage must apply in person. However, the application must be signed by both applicants.

The issuer may require proof of age of either party (if only one party is applying, he/she must bring proof of age of the other party). All minors must submit proof of age.

There are **no** requirements respecting residency, pre-marital blood tests or medical certificates.

A marriage licence is valid for use anywhere in Ontario. The licence expires 3 months after the date of issue.

There is a fee charged for a marriage licence.

2) Publication of banns

A marriage may be solemnized under the authority of the publication of banns where both parties to the proposed marriage worship regularly at their own church in Canada.

No one may marry under the authority of the publication of banns if there was a previous marriage (dissolved or annulled). Further information concerning marriage under the authority of the publication of banns may be obtained from a minister or a member of the clergy.

Who may perform a marriage ceremony

A marriage ceremony in Ontario may be performed by:

- a) a minister or member of the clergy registered under the **Marriage Act**
- b) a judge or justice of the peace.

Local court offices and municipal offices may provide the names of judges or justices of the peace who perform civil marriage ceremonies.

Civil Ceremony

A civil ceremony by a judge or justice of the peace may only be conducted under the authority of a marriage licence. The date and time of the ceremony must be arranged by the applicant. The applicants must also arrange for 2 witnesses to be present at the ceremony. There is an additional fee for civil ceremonies.

Authorization

An applicant whose former marriage was dissolved or annulled in a jurisdiction other than Canada must obtain authorization from the Minister of Government of Services before a marriage licence may be issued. To obtain this authorization, the applicants or a lawyer representing them, must submit the following to:

Office of the Registrar General
P.O. Box 3000
189 Red River Road
Thunder Bay ON P7B 5W0

- 1) A completed marriage licence application signed by both applicants.
- 2) An original or court certified copy of the divorce decree or annulment (certified by the proper court officer in the jurisdiction the divorce/annulment was granted). If the decree is in a language other than English or French, include a translated copy together with an affidavit sworn by the translator.
- 3) A Statement of Sole Responsibility for each divorce signed by both applicants. Blank statements are available from the local issuer of Marriage Licences.
- 4) A legal opinion of an Ontario lawyer, addressed to both applicants, giving reasons why the divorce or annulment should be recognized in the Province of Ontario. A sample legal opinion letter can be obtained from the Office of the Registrar General by calling 1-807-343-7492 or toll free in Ontario at 1-800-461-2156. A sample letter will be faxed to your lawyer upon the lawyers request.