

How to Obtain a Marriage License in Massachusetts

Anyone wishing to marry in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts must first obtain a marriage license. The legal age to marry in Massachusetts is 18 and anyone under that age wishing to obtain a marriage license may do so only with a court order. Couples who are validating a civil marriage in a church ceremony do not need to obtain a marriage license but must present a valid marriage certificate.

To obtain a marriage license in Massachusetts, follow these guidelines:

- There is a three-day waiting period for a marriage license but this period may be waived with a court order.
- Both the prospective bride and groom must appear in the Clerk's Office at the same time.
- Marriage licenses are good for sixty (60) days from date of issue and are valid anywhere in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- The cost of a marriage license will vary from town to town.

Please Note: Your wedding ceremony CANNOT take place unless the priest or deacon performing the ceremony has in his possession at the time of the ceremony a valid marriage license issued in Massachusetts. It is your responsibility to ensure that he is in possession of the license.