



Office of Vital Records

Marriage Requirements in Rhode Island

Fact Sheet and Customer Checklist

Apply for a marriage license

Rhode Island residents

- If both people live in Rhode Island, apply for a marriage license at the city or town hall where either person lives. Both people getting married must apply in person at the same time.
- If only one person lives in Rhode Island, apply for a marriage license at the city or town hall where the Rhode Islander lives. Both people getting married must apply in person at the same time.

Out-of-State residents

- Apply for a marriage license from the clerks' office in the city or town where the marriage ceremony will take place. Both people getting married must apply in person at the same time.

Bring these things with you when you apply for a marriage license

- ✓ Birth Certificate
 - Certified copy that includes parents' information and place of birth (*Long form, state-issued birth certificate is preferred.*)
 - If you were born outside the US, contact the government agency or local consulate where the birth occurred and ask how to get a birth certificate.
- ✓ Photo Identification
 - Unexpired, government-issued ID that shows your current legal name, date of birth, and photo. If your current address is not on the photo ID, you must show proof of your current address (utility bill, car registration, tax return from previous year).
- ✓ Cash, check, or money order: \$24 (make payable to Rhode Island General Treasurer)
- ✓ If you were married before, bring a certified copy of the final divorce decree, dissolution, or a death certificate as proof that the previous marriage ended.
- ✓ If you are under adult legal guardianship, the legal guardian must complete a *Guardian Permit to Marry form*.
- ✓ Any document in a language other than English may need a certified translation before getting a marriage license. Contact the city or town clerk's office and ask if you will need a certified translation.

What You Need to Do Before the Ceremony

- ✓ Choose an authorized person to perform your wedding ceremony.
- ✓ Make sure all of the information on the marriage license is correct.
- ✓ Make sure the wedding ceremony takes place sooner than 90 days after the marriage license was issued. A marriage license is only good for 90 days.
- ✓ Make sure the city or town where the wedding ceremony will take place is listed on the marriage license.

What You Need to Do After the Ceremony

- ✓ Get a certified copy of your marriage certificate. (optional) You can get a certified copy of a marriage certificates from any city or town hall after the marriage license is returned to the city or town hall that issued it.
- ✓ If either person wants to change their name after the wedding, you will need a certified copy of the marriage certificate to justify a name change. A marriage certificate does not automatically change your name. For more information about changing your name, visit the Social Security Administration website. <https://www.ssa.gov/personal-record/change-name>