



Planning a Marriage in Maine

RELATIONSHIP

Marriage is not permitted in Maine between two people who are related by blood to one another under Title 19-A, §651 (3) *with the following exception:*

If the parties recording notice of their intentions to marry are related (first cousins) as described in Title 19-A, section 701, subsection 2, the parties shall submit to the clerk, at the time of recording their intentions to marry, a certificate from a physician stating that the parties have received genetic counseling from the physician.

AGE/PARENTAL CONSENT

A person who has reached the age of 18 may marry without parental consent. If either party is under the age of 18 they **MUST** have consent from the parent(s) or legal guardian before the marriage license can be issued. The parent(s) or guardian may appear in person before the municipal clerk where the license was applied for and give consent, or they may give consent in writing before a notary public to be presented to the clerk. Also, when person(s) under the age of 16 years intend to marry, the municipal clerk must notify the Judge of Probate when marriage intentions are filed in their office. If no written consent from the judge has been received by the 30th day after the intentions are filed, consent shall be considered as received and the clerk may issue the license.

IF YOU HAVE BEEN MARRIED BEFORE

If either party has been married before and are divorced or widowed, a **certified copy** of documentation showing how the last marriage ended is required.

FILING INTENTIONS/FEES

The first step in obtaining a marriage license is to have the marriage intentions recorded in writing. Both parties must sign the intentions, stating they are free to marry. There is a \$40.00 fee to obtain a marriage license.

If either of the parties are residents of Maine, they must file their intentions at the municipal office in the town or city in which one of them resides.

If only one party to the marriage resides in Maine and the other party resides outside the state of Maine, then both parties must file their intentions at the municipal office in the town/city where the resident lives.

If neither one of the parties is a resident of Maine, they must file intentions, but may file in any municipal clerk's office. Once the intentions are filed and the license is issued, the parties are free to marry anywhere within the State.

WAITING PERIOD

There is NO waiting period in the State of Maine. Once the intentions are filed, the license may be issued immediately.

OBTAINING YOUR MARRIAGE LICENSE

Once the intentions have been filed, the two parties have signed the marriage license, and all other requirements for obtaining a marriage license have been met, the marriage license may be issued to the either party. The license must be used within 90 days (not three months) from the date the intentions were filed.

PERSONS AUTHORIZED TO SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGES IN MAINE

If a resident of this state:

- ❖ A justice or judge;
- ❖ A lawyer admitted to the Maine Bar;
- ❖ A notary public; and

Whether a resident or nonresident of the state and whether or not a citizen of the United States:

- ❖ An ordained minister of the gospel;
- ❖ A cleric engaged in the service of the religious body to which the cleric belongs; or
- ❖ A person licensed to preach by an association of ministers, religious seminary or ecclesiastical body.

If a nonresident of the State of Maine:

- ❖ A nonresident of Maine who has a temporary registration certificate issued by the Maine CDC vital records office.

THE CEREMONY

After the marriage ceremony has taken place, the person who performed the ceremony is responsible for completing the ceremony section of the marriage license. This includes obtaining signatures of two (2) witnesses and the signature of the officiant. The person performing the ceremony (officiant) CANNOT be one of the two witnesses to the ceremony. **THE MARRIAGE LICENSE MUST BE COMPLETED IN BLACK INK ONLY!!** Once the ceremony has taken place and the ceremony section has been completed, the officiant is then responsible for filing the license(s) with the municipal clerks at the municipality where the license was issued within 7 days.

*If a Maine resident goes to another state to get married to avoid Maine requirements, or if a nonresident comes to Maine to avoid the requirements of his/her state of residence, the marriage is considered to be null and void.

COPIES

Copies of your marriage certificate are available from the municipal clerk who issued the license and also from the Maine CDC vital records office. A fee does apply.

DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIPS IN MAINE

Beginning in 2004, Maine implemented a Domestic Partners Registry. If you are planning to be married in Maine and you have already registered in Maine as a Domestic Partner, the partnership becomes void upon the date of the marriage.

When completing Intentions of Marriage, if you are a registered Domestic Partner in Maine, please remember to indicate this on your Intentions of Marriage Application.

If you would like more information on Domestic Partnerships in Maine, please go to our web site at www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/public-health-systems/data-research/vital-records.

QUESTIONS

If you have any further questions, please contact either a municipal clerk or the Maine CDC vital records office at:

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention 207-287-3771

