

## Requirements for Applying for a Marriage License

### **Residence:**

If either of the applicants is a resident of the State of Georgia, the marriage license may be obtained from the Probate Court in any county in the State. It is not required that the license be obtained from the county of the legal residence of either applicant. If neither applicant is a resident of the State of Georgia, the license must be obtained from the Probate Court in the county in which the ceremony is to be performed.

**Proof of Age:** Both applicants must be 18 years of age or older to apply for a marriage license without parental consent. Proof of age (certified birth certificate, driver's license, baptismal certificate, certificate of birth registration, selective service card, court record, passport, immigration papers, alien papers, citizenship papers, armed forces discharge papers, armed forces identification card, or hospital admission card containing the full name and date of birth) must be presented by every applicant who does not appear to the judge or clerk to be at least 25 years of age. If either applicant is 16 or 17 years of age, a license may be issued only with the written consent (form is to be signed at the court) of the parents or guardians of the underage applicant. No license may be issued if either applicant is under the age of 16. As of July 1st, 2006, the court no longer authorizes the issuance of a license to a 16 or 17 year old without parental consent. All proof of age documents must be in English or translated into English. If either applicant does not speak English, they will need to bring an adult interpreter with them. Each applicant will need to be able to answer their own questions. One applicant can not speak for the other.

**Proof of Dissolution Of Prior Marriage:** If either applicant has been previously married and the marriage was dissolved by divorce or annulment, a copy of the decree of divorce or annulment must be presented at the time of application. Applicants who have been married and divorced more than once need only provide a copy of the decree dissolving the last previous marriage. If the last marriage ended due to death of spouse, a copy of the death certificate is required at the time of application.

**Fees:** The fee for a marriage license is \$77.00, which includes one set of certified copies of the marriage license and marriage application. If the couple completes Premarital Counseling and provides documentation of the same, the fee is \$37.00, which includes one set of certified copies. In order to qualify for the reduced fee, the premarital education program: must have been completed within 12 months prior to the date of the application; must have been taken by the couple together; must have included not less than six hours of "instruction involving marital issues, which may include but not be limited to conflict management, communication skills, financial responsibilities, child and parenting responsibilities, and extended family roles" and must have been provided by (1) a professional counselor, social worker, or marriage and family therapist licensed in Georgia, (2) a psychiatrist licensed in Georgia, (3) a psychologist licensed in Georgia, or (4) an active member of the clergy when in the course of his or her service as clergy or his or her designee, provided the designee is trained and skilled in premarital education. We accept personal checks, money orders, certified checks, and cash. MasterCard/Visa is accepted with a convenience fee up to \$3.00.

**Certified Copies:** One set of certified copies will be mailed to the address provided by the applicants, unless additional certified copies have been purchased at the time of application. All additional certified copies of the marriage license or marriage application are \$10.00.

**Hours:** Our office hours are Monday – Friday , 8:00am – 4:30pm. The application time usually takes 20-30 minutes; however, depending on office traffic, application times may vary.

**Online applications:** You may electronically submit a marriage license application online at [www.georgiaprobaterecords.com](http://www.georgiaprobaterecords.com). Click on the “Marriage Application” tab in the middle of the screen. Enter both applicant’s information. Click “Submit Application.”

Both applicant’s will still need to provide their identification as well as final divorce decree and/or previous spouse’s death certificate when they come into the court to finalize their application process.

**The Probate Judge performs ceremonies on designated days/times. Please call the number below to make an appointment.**

If you have any questions, please contact our office at 616-7415.

Thank You.

The Probate Court of Colquitt County, Georgia