

MARRIAGE FAQ'S

HOW DO I OBTAIN A MARRIAGE LICENSE?

Marriage Licenses can be obtained from any of our 3 locations. Monday- Friday. Main Office at 210 West Davis (Hwy 105) Conroe, Texas 77301, East County Annex at 21130 Legion Rd New Caney, Texas 77357 or the South County Annex 1520 Lake Front Circle The Woodlands, TX 77380. No appointment needed.

WHAT TYPE OF IDENTIFICATION DO WE NEED TO GET A MARRIAGE LICENSE?

You must have a valid ID such as a driver's license, ID card issued by DPS, valid passport, original or certified birth certificate, or other U.S. government issued identification or identification listed in Texas Family Code Sec. 2.005. If you have a social security number, we will ask for the number. We do not need the physical card.

HOW MUCH DOES A MARRIAGE LICENSE COST?

The fee to obtain your marriage license is \$81.00 cash only.

WE GOT A TRANSACTION NUMBER ONLY, WHAT IS NEXT?

Both parties must appear in person to purchase the marriage license. Please bring your identification and \$81.00 cash. There is a 72-hour waiting period after you get the marriage license before you can get married and the marriage license is valid for 90 days. The 72-hours waiting period does not apply for active duty military or those who have completed the Twogether in Texas premarital counseling course.

WHAT IS AN INFORMAL MARRIAGE?

This is also referred to as common law in Texas. When two persons agree to be married, and after the agreement they live together in this state as spouses, and they represent to others that they are married. As proof, the couple may apply for a Declaration of Informal Marriage. No ceremony is required. The signing and filing of the Declaration of Informal Marriage form validates the Texas common law marriage as a legal marriage and entitles the parties to the same rights and duties as couples joined through traditional ceremonial marriage. Cost is \$46.00, cash only. You will leave with a document that can be used as your proof of marriage.

IF WE DO AN INFORMAL MARRIAGE, CAN WE DO A FORMAL MARRIAGE CEREMONY LATER?

Yes, you can!

HOW LONG DO I NEED TO BE DIVORCED BEFORE I CAN OBTAIN A MARRIAGE LICENSE?

An applicant may apply for a marriage license after the 31st day the divorce is finalized (Family Code 6.801). If the divorce was finalized within the 30 days, the applicant must provide a certified copy of the divorce decree, which states that the 30-day waiting period has been waived. Former spouses may marry each other at any time.

HOW SOON CAN WE GET MARRIED?

There is a 72-hour waiting period. This can be waived by a judge or can be waived with premarital counseling or being active duty military.

WHAT IF I AM ACTIVE MILITARY, DO I HAVE TO WAIT 72 HOURS TO GET MARRIED?

The 72-hour waiting period is waived if an applicant is a member of the armed forces of the United States and on active duty. Your military identification must be presented at the time of purchase of your marriage license.

WE DID PREMARTIAL COUNSELING, DO WE GET A DISCOUNT?

When a couple presents the Twogether in Texas Certificate, the 72-hour waiting period is waived; The Twogether in Texas Certificate is valid for one year from the date the course was taken; the couple is eligible for a discount of \$60.00 from the marriage license fee. This makes the cost of the marriage license \$21.00. Please make sure it is signed and dated by the course leader. To learn more about the course, you may contact 512-206-5594 or visit www.TwogetherinTexas.com

WHO IS AUTHORIZED TO MARRY US?

According to Texas Family Code Sec. 2.202 a licensed or ordained Christian minister or priest, a Jewish rabbi, a person who is an officer of a religious organization and who is authorized by the organization to conduct a marriage ceremony; and a current, former, or retired federal judge or state judge.

DO I NEED AN APPOINTMENT FOR A JUDGE TO PERFORM OUR CEREMONY?

After you get your marriage license, you may make an appointment with the judge of your choice to perform your marriage ceremony. You may find their contact information on www.mctx.org and contact their office directly to schedule.

IF MY FIANCE IS NOT ABLE TO APPEAR TO GET THE MARRIAGE LICENSE, CAN WE STILL GET MARRIED?

The absent party may complete the Affidavit of Absent Applicant for a Marriage License VS-181. The absent party may complete this affidavit and provide copy of their identification and their fiancé may obtain the marriage license due to their absence. The instructions to complete the absentee affidavit and VS-181 is available on our website.

CAN WE GET MARRIED IN ANOTHER STATE?

You may get married anywhere you choose. Please do not alter or cross out the text on our marriage license. Please put the city and county where you do choose to marry. We advise to check with your officiant in the location of marriage to see if they will accept an out of state or country marriage license.

CAN A MINOR GET MARRIED IN TEXAS?

A person under the age of 18 years of age may not marry unless the person has been granted by this state or another state, a court order removing the disabilities of minority of the person for general purposes. (Texas Family Code 2.003)

WHERE DO I SEND IN MY MARRIAGE LICENSE AFTER WE ARE MARRIED?

Please make sure it has been signed and completed by the officiant before it is returned to our office. It may be returned in person to any of our 3 offices or you may mail it to: Montgomery County Clerk's Office, PO BOX 959 Conroe TX 77305.

WHEN WILL I GET MY ORIGINAL MARRIAGE LICENSE BACK AFTER I GET MARRIED?

Once we receive your marriage license from your officiant, we will file and record your marriage and return the original back to the mailing address provided with in the week.

HOW CAN I GET A CERTIFIED COPY OF MY MARRIED LICENSE?

You may purchase certified copies online, in person at any of our 3 offices or through the mail. Certified copies are \$6.00. You may purchase copies once your marriage license has been recorded with our office.

HOW DO I CHANGE MY NAME AFTER MARRIAGE?

You will need to take your original or certified copies of your marriage license to the Social Security Administration and Texas Department of Public Safety to start the name change process on your identification.

WHAT IF I STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

You can call us at (936) 539-7885 or email at Vitals@mctx.org. We will respond as quickly as possible.

