



Marriage License – Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between a Marriage License and a Marriage Certificate?

A Marriage License is the legal document which one must have to *get* married. A Marriage Certificate is the legal document that proves you have *been* married.

What are the requirements for entering into a marriage?

Anyone at least 18 years or older can get married so long as they are not a party to another civil union, domestic partnership or marriage in this state or recognized by this state.

How do I obtain a Marriage License?

The first step is to select an Officiant. An Officiant is the person who performs the actual marriage ceremony. Once you have confirmed both the Officiant and the date of the ceremony, you must schedule an appointment with Township Clerk's Office to apply for your Marriage License. You should book your appointment at **least two (2) weeks** in advance of your ceremony.

How long is a Marriage License valid?

Marriage License, once they are issued, are only valid for **thirty (30) days** and you must get married by an Officiant within that timeframe so you must plan accordingly. Once you pick up the license, you must use it within thirty (30) days. If the license expires before being used, you must complete a new application.

Do I have to apply for the Marriage License in person?

Yes. **You, your partner and one (1) witness** must be present in the Township Clerk's Office to apply.

I do not live in New Jersey and neither does my partner. Can we still apply for a Marriage License in Cherry Hill?

Yes, but if neither applicant lives in New Jersey, then you **must** get married in Cherry Hill.

Both my partner and I are New Jersey residents, but neither of us live in Cherry Hill. Can we apply for a Marriage License in Cherry Hill?

No. New Jersey residents can only apply for a Marriage License in the municipality where either party resides.

I live in Cherry Hill, but my partner does not. Can we apply for a Marriage License in Cherry Hill? If so, must we get married in Cherry Hill?

Yes. You can apply for a Marriage License in the New Jersey Municipality where either part resides. Once you are issued a Marriage License in Cherry Hill, the license is valid throughout the state so while you need not to get married in Cherry Hill, you must get married somewhere in New Jersey; A Marriage License issued by Cherry Hill will not be valid in any other state.

Can the Township Clerk marry us?

No. According to State law, only certain public officials such as judges and religious ministers are legally permitted to serve as Officiants. The Township Clerk only issues the Marriage Licenses and Marriage Certificates.

Will the Township Clerk's Office arrange for one of the local judges to marry us?

No. If you wish to have a municipal judge serve as your Officiant, you must arrange that on your own. To schedule a wedding ceremony at the Cherry Hill Municipal Court, please call (856) 488-7850.

Once you have scheduled your wedding ceremony at the Municipal Court, you must schedule your appointment with the Township Clerk's Office to apply for your Marriage License at least two (2) weeks in advance of your ceremony. The Municipal Court will not schedule Marriage License appointment for you and scheduling a wedding ceremony at the Municipal Court does not mean you have been automatically granted a license to get married.

I already have an Officiant. He/she is from my church. Does he have to register with Clerk's Office in order to marry me?

No. The Township will not ask for proof that the Officiant you have chosen is qualified to perform marriages.

My Officiant is not ordained in New Jersey and he/she is a pastor of a church located in another state. Must the Officiant be based in New Jersey in order to marry me?

No. Anyone qualified to perform marriages in any other jurisdiction is qualified to perform marriages in New Jersey. But remember: You must get married in New Jersey and if neither you or nor your partner

are New Jersey residents but were granted a Marriage License by Cherry Hill, then you must get married in Cherry Hill.

I've selected an Officiant and confirmed a date for my marriage ceremony. How do I schedule a Marriage License appointment?

Marriage License Applications are by **APPOINTMENT ONLY** (9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday). To schedule an appointment, please call the Clerk's Office at 856-488-7892.

Marriage applications can be taken in the following places:

- The Township where Applicant A resides, or
- If Applicant A is from out-of-state, the Township where the Applicant B resides, or
- If both Applicant A and Applicant B are from out-of-state, the Township where the marriage/civil union is going to be performed. In this case, the license is only valid in that Township.

Important Time Lines

Marriage Licenses Applications must be completed a minimum of 72 hours prior to issuance of the Marriage License. However, it is recommended that you apply a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the date of marriage.

I've scheduled an appointment with the Township Clerk's Office to apply for my Marriage License. What will my partner and I need to bring to the appointment?

1. Both you and your partner must bring a valid government-issued photo I.D. such as a driver's license, passport or State/Federal I.D. **PLEASE NOTE:** An expired I.D. is not considered valid and any identification documents printed in a foreign language must be accompanied by a certified English translation.
2. Proof of residency - a valid driver's license with a Cherry Hill address or two (2) alternate forms of ID showing Cherry Hill address:
 - Vehicle registration card
 - Vehicle insurance card
 - Voter registration card
 - Utility bill or bank statement (within last 90 days)
 - W-2 for current or previous tax year

PLEASE NOTE: As noted previously, two non-New Jersey residents may obtain a Cherry Hill Township Marriage License but the marriage ceremony **must** take place in Cherry Hill in order to be valid.

3. One (1) witness, who is 18 years of age or older. The witness must also present a government-issued photo I.D. The witness need not be a resident of Cherry Hill or of New Jersey.
4. A completed Marriage License Application Form. You can download and fill out the form online by clicking on this link: <https://www.nj.gov/health/forms/reg-77.docx> If you cannot print the form prior to your appointment, one will be provided to you at the Clerk's Office. **PLEASE NOTE: If you have completed the form prior to your appointment, do not sign it. It must be signed in the presence of the issuing authority while under oath.**

PLEASE NOTE: When picking up your marriage license, you will be given an opportunity to review the Marriage License in order to confirm that all the information on the Marriage License is true and spelled correctly. It is your responsibility to ensure that all the information on the Marriage License is both factually correct and spelled correctly.

Is there a waiting period after we complete the application before we can get the License and go to get married?

Yes. There is a 72-hour waiting period before the Marriage License can be issued. The waiting period begins when the application is filed in the Clerk's Office. The Marriage License application is valid for six (6) months from the date it is filed. After the 72-hour waiting period has expired, you may arrange to pick up your Marriage License from the Clerk's Office. Once you pick up the license you must use it within thirty (30) days. If the License expires before being used, you must complete a new application.

Do I need to have witnesses for the actual marriage ceremony itself?

Yes. You must have two (2) witnesses. The Officiant cannot serve as a witness.

Once the marriage ceremony is over, and the Officiant and both witnesses have signed the Marriage License, where do I bring it?

You must file both copy 1 and copy 2 of the Marriage License with the city or town where the ceremony took place. For example, if you obtained your Marriage License in Cherry Hill, but your marriage ceremony took place in Haddonfield, then you must file it in Haddonfield.

Cherry Hill issued my Marriage License but my marriage ceremony took place in Haddonfield. How do I obtain my Marriage Certificate?

You must apply to the city or town where your marriage ceremony took place; in this example, it would be Haddonfield.

PLEASE NOTE: Marriage Certificates are not provided automatically; you must request them separately and pay the corresponding fee.

I was married in Cherry Hill. How do I obtain my Marriage Certificate?

You must complete an Application for a Certified Copy of a Vital Record, also known as a Reg 37A Form. A copy of the Reg 37A Form can be downloaded by [clicking here](#). Simply mail the completed form, along

with a photocopy of your Driver's License (or some other Government-issued photo ID) and a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Cherry Hill Township, Office of the Municipal Clerk – 820 Mercer Street, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002. You must include a check or Money Order made out to Cherry Hill Township. The cost is \$25.00 for the first copy. Each additional copy is \$5.00 per copy.

Now that I am married, I want to take my spouse's last name. Do I apply to the Clerk's Office to change my name?

No. The Clerk's Office does not process name changes. Name changes are processed by the Social Security Administration. Go to www.socialsecurity.gov or dial 1-800-772-1213; TTY:1-800-325-0778. If you are a New Jersey resident, you can also process your name change through the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (NJMVC). Name change applications processed by the NJMVC cannot be completed through the mail; you must visit a Motor Vehicle Agency branch office and present a Marriage Certificate or Civil Union Certificate in order to process the change. If you have any questions, you should contact the NJMVC directly by visiting www.njmvc.gov or call the MVC's Customer Support Line at (609) 292-6500 weekdays (except holidays).

My partner and I are already married in another country. Do we have the option to be re-married here?

Yes. For individuals who are currently married in New Jersey or who are married in another state or country, the option exists to reaffirm your relationship/vows by registering a remarriage. To apply for a remarriage, the couple must provide proof of their existing marriage, meet the requirements for entering into a marriage in New Jersey and follow the guidelines above to completing the license application. The process for a remarriage license is the same as for the marriage license, except that the remarriage license must be accompanied by the proof of existing marriage. There is no waiting period before the license is issued. For more information on New Jersey's marriage regulations check out: <https://www.nj.gov/health/vital/registration-vital/marriage-licenses>.