

Applicants are asked to read the following carefully before completing the application for a Marriage Licence. On occasion, additional information may be requested when applying for a Marriage Licence.

Payment

The fee for a Marriage Licence is \$135.00. Applicants may pay with cash, debit card or certified cheque only.

Age Requirement

Minimum age requirement for a marriage licence is 18. 16 and 17 year olds are eligible for a Marriage Licence with written consent of the legal guardian (A Form 6 must be completed).

Required Documentation

Applicants must provide one of the following pieces of identification: birth certificate, current passport, Record of Immigrant Landing or Canadian citizenship card. Additionally, one piece of photo identification is necessary to prove your current legal name and age. **Without this documentation a Marriage Licence may not be issued.**

Waiting Period

Generally, Marriage Licences are issued within two business days provided applicants meet eligibility requirements.

Number of Applicants to Attend Before Issuer

Both parties must sign the application form using their full names not initials. The Marriage Licence will be issued according to surname and given name(s) on birth certificates. Only one applicant need apply in person.

Getting Married After the Passing of a Spouse

If you have been widowed and are getting remarried you are required to submit proof of death (Death Certificate or Funeral Director's Certificate) when applying for a Marriage Licence. An original or certified copy of the Certificate is preferred however, photocopies may be accepted.

Getting Married After a Divorce in Canada

Additional documents are needed if a divorce or annulment has been obtained by one or both of the applicants.

If you were divorced in Canada, you must bring the original or court-certified copy of the final decree, final judgment or certificate of divorce when you are applying for the marriage licence. To obtain a court-certified copy of the certificate of divorce please contact the courthouse where the divorce was issued. **Photocopies will not be accepted.**

Getting Married After a Divorce Outside of Canada

If you were divorced outside of Canada, you must obtain authorization from the Ministry of Government Services before you can apply for a marriage licence. **Allow an additional one month to go through this process prior to the issuance of a marriage licence.** The following documentation must be completed and sent to:

The Office of the Registrar General - Marriage Office
P.O. Box 4600
189 Red River Rd.
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6L8

1. A completed Marriage Licence Application.
 2. A completed Statement of Sole Responsibility for each divorce signed by both parties of this marriage.
 3. An original or court-certified copy (certified by the proper court officer in the jurisdiction the divorce or annulment was granted) of the divorce decree or annulment. If the decree is in a language other than English or French, include a translated copy together with an affidavit sworn by a certified translator.
 4. A legal opinion from an Ontario lawyer, addressed to both applicants to the marriage, giving reasons why the divorce or annulment should be recognized in the Province of Ontario.
- You may call ServiceOntario – Foreign Divorce Authorization department for further information at 807-343-7492.

Who may marry

Any person who is at least 18 years of age may marry. No person under 16 years of age may marry. Any person who is 16 or 17 years of age may marry with the written consent of their parents or legal guardians (not required for a widowed or divorced person). A special consent form is available for this purpose from your local Municipal Office. If any person whose consent is required is unavailable or refuses to consent, an application may be made to a judge to dispense with consent.

A person whose previous marriage has been dissolved or annulled will require:

- If the marriage was dissolved or annulled in Canada, the original or court-certified copy of the final decree, judgment or certificate of divorce dissolving or annulling the marriage; or
- If the marriage was dissolved or annulled outside of Canada, the authorization of the Minister of Government and Consumer Services. This requirement is explained in more detail below; or
- Where the earlier marriage of one of the parties was terminated by the presumed death of a spouse, a court order declaring the death of the spouse. An issuer of Marriage Licences can provide more information upon request.

If you have been divorced outside of Canada – authorization requirements

An applicant whose former marriage was dissolved or annulled outside Canada must obtain authorization from the Minister of Government and Consumer Services before a marriage licence may be issued. To obtain this authorization, the applicants or a lawyer representing them, must submit the following to the Office of the Registrar General, PO Box 3000, 189 Red River Road, Thunder Bay ON P7B 5W0:

- A completed marriage licence application form signed by both applicants.
- An original, court certified copy or photocopy of the divorce decree or annulment (certified by the proper court officer in the jurisdiction the divorce/annulment was granted). If the decree is in a language other than English or French, include a translated copy together with an affidavit sworn by the translator.
- A Statement of Sole Responsibility for each divorce signed by both applicants and a witness. Blank statements are available from the local issuer of Marriage Licences or online at ServiceOntario.ca/GettingMarried.
- A legal opinion of an Ontario lawyer, addressed to both applicants, stating that the divorce would be recognized as valid in the province of Ontario and giving reasons why it should be recognized in Ontario. Your lawyer may request copy of a sample legal opinion letter from the Office of the Registrar General by calling 807-343-7492 or toll free in Ontario at 1-800-461-2156.

How to marry legally in Ontario

1. A Marriage Licence

A licence to marry may be obtained from the issuer of marriage licences at your local municipal clerk's office by completing a marriage licence application. The application must be signed by both applicants. Applications are available at ServiceOntario.ca/GettingMarried.

The issuer may require proof of age of either party. All minors must submit proof of age.

There are no requirements for couples regarding residency, pre-marital blood tests or medical certificates.

A marriage licence is valid for use anywhere in Ontario and expires 3 months after the date of issue. There is a fee charged for a marriage licence.

Or

2. The publication of banns

A marriage may be solemnized under the authority of the publication of banns where both parties to the proposed marriage worship regularly at their own church in Canada. No one may be married under the authority of the publication of banns if there was a previous marriage (dissolved or annulled). Further information concerning marriage under the authority of the publication of banns may be obtained from a person who is registered under the *Marriage Act* to perform religious marriages in Ontario.

Who can legally perform a marriage in Ontario?

A marriage ceremony in Ontario may be performed by:

- A person who is registered under the *Marriage Act* to perform religious marriages in Ontario.
- A person who is registered under the *Marriage Act* to perform marriages in Ontario according to the customs and traditions of a band, First Nation, Métis or Inuit organization or community or Indigenous entity.
- A judge, Ontario case management master, or justice of the peace.
- A municipal clerk and/or their delegate authorized to perform civil marriage ceremonies.

Finding an Officiant

- Visit ServiceOntario.ca/GettingMarried for a list of marriage officiants registered to perform marriages in Ontario.
- Names of judges, Ontario case management masters, and justices of the peace available to perform civil marriage services may be available from local court offices and municipal offices.
- Contact your local municipal clerk's office to find out if they offer civil marriage services.

Congratulations on your forthcoming Marriage. This notice contains important information about the Marriage Licence you have just purchased. This licence can only be used in the Province of Ontario.

Part 3, Statement of Marriage

- The Statement of Marriage must be completed accurately and clearly as it is the permanent legal record of your marriage.
- This document must be signed during the ceremony by you, your witnesses and the person solemnizing your marriage.
- It is the responsibility of the person solemnizing your marriage to send the completed and signed document to the Office of the Registrar General.

Record of Solemnization of Marriage

- The Record of Solemnization of Marriage will be completed, detached and given to you by the person solemnizing the marriage once the ceremony is completed.
- The Record of Solemnization of Marriage is **not** an official marriage certificate.

Proof of Marriage Registration

- To have proof that your marriage has been registered by the Province of Ontario, it is recommended that you order a marriage certificate.
- You may order an official marriage certificate approximately 12 weeks from the date of marriage.
- Current fees and application forms are available at your local municipal office.
- Complete and mail the application with the appropriate fees to the Office of the Registrar General, PO Box 4600, Thunder Bay ON P7B 6L8.

Félicitations à l'occasion de votre mariage prochain. Le présent avis contient d'importants renseignements sur la Licence de mariage que vous venez d'acheter. Cette licence n'est valide qu'en Ontario.

3^e partie, Déclaration de mariage

- Il faut s'assurer que la Déclaration de mariage est remplie avec clarté et précision, car elle constitue le document juridique permanent de votre mariage.
- Au cours de la cérémonie, la personne qui célébrera votre mariage, vos témoins et vous-mêmes devrez signer ce document.
- Il incombe à la personne qui célèbre le mariage de faire parvenir le document dûment rempli et signé au Bureau du registraire général de l'état civil.

Attestation de célébration de mariage

- Après la cérémonie, la personne qui aura célébré votre mariage remplira, détachera et vous remettra une attestation de célébration de mariage.
- L'attestation de célébration de mariage **ne constitue pas** votre certificat officiel.

Preuve de l'enregistrement du mariage

- Pour obtenir la preuve que la province de l'Ontario a enregistré votre mariage, nous vous invitons à commander un certificat de mariage.
- Vous pouvez commander ce certificat approximativement 12 semaines après la date du mariage.
- Vous pouvez obtenir le barème des droits actuels et les formules de demande auprès du bureau local de votre municipalité.
- Veuillez remplir et envoyer la demande, en y joignant les droits prévus, au Bureau du registraire général de l'état civil, CP 4600, Thunder Bay ON P7B 6L8.

Before you get married...

You need to check that the person performing your marriage ceremony is an authorized officiant. It is important to ensure that your marriage is performed properly and legally.



Who can perform a legal marriage in Ontario



- A religious officiant registered under the *Marriage Act* to perform religious marriages in Ontario;
- A person who belongs to a band, First Nation, Métis or Inuit organization or community or Indigenous entity, and is registered under the *Marriage Act* to perform marriages in Ontario; or
- A judge, case management master, justice of the peace, or a municipal clerk and/or their delegate authorized to perform civil marriages in Ontario.

Only persons noted above are authorized to perform a marriage in Ontario.



Check before you get married

Find out if a person performing your marriage is an authorized officiant.

Registered Officiant:

- Check online at **ServiceOntario.ca/GettingMarried** to access the lists of registered officiants authorized to perform marriages in Ontario or call ServiceOntario at 1-800-461-2156 (outside of Toronto but within North America); 416-325-8305 (in Toronto or outside of North America); TTY: 416-325-3408.

Ontario Municipal Clerk/Delegate:

- Contact your local city hall, town hall or municipal office to determine whether they provide civil marriage services and if so, who can perform a marriage.

Judge, Case Management Master, Justice of the Peace:

- Judge appointed by the federal government or a provincial/territorial government to any court in Canada.
- Case management master appointed under Ontario's *Courts of Justice Act*.
- Justice of the peace appointed under Ontario's *Justices of the Peace Act*.

Visit **ServiceOntario.ca/GettingMarried** for more information.