

Marriage Licenses

[Chapter 765 Wisconsin Statutes](#) [PDF]

Updated February 2024

Marquette County Clerk's Office
Room 107 – Marquette County Courthouse
Montello, WI 53949

608-297-3016

Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Closed Weekends and Holidays)

Please come in before 4:00 p.m. and not during the noon hour unless you have called ahead and made arrangements to do so.

License Fee: \$85.00

Waiver Fee: \$25.00 - The three-day waiting period may be waived for good cause (i.e. out-of-state applicants, military, serious illness) by the County Clerk for an additional \$25.00. The applicants will be required to fill out an application stating the reason for the waiver. Once the waiver is approved by the County Clerk, the license can be issued immediately following application.

Where to Apply? Parties may apply in any Wisconsin county. The license may be used in any county in the State of Wisconsin. If one party is a non-resident of the state, the nonresident's part of the application may be completed and sworn to or affirmed before the person authorized to accept marriage license applications in the county and state where the nonresident resides.

When do we apply? The license is valid for 60 days, after the 3-day waiting period. The waiting period may be waived in certain circumstances or by approval of the County Clerk. **You MUST have a marriage date when you apply.**

What do we need to bring?

Each applicant for a marriage license shall present satisfactory, documentary proof of identification and residence per state statute.

- Record of Birth - Must have a certified birth record. Hospital certificate of birth is not acceptable. Photocopies of birth certificates are also unacceptable. If, and only if, your birth record is unobtainable, you MAY substitute a passport, license, or identification card that meets the REAL ID requirements, permanent resident card, or naturalization papers, but a birth certificate is always preferred when obtainable. You must know how to correctly spell both of your parents' full names, including mother's full maiden name.
- Driver's License or State ID Card with current address. (If your address is not current on your ID, please bring other proof of residence).
- Social Security Number if one has been issued. (Do not have to have the actual card)

- A copy of the divorce judgment, annulment paper, or a death certificate must be presented for the last previous marriage, if applicable.
- Name and contact information (address and phone number) of your officiant.
- Payment of the fee must be made at the time of the application.

How do I change my name? Once your license is filed with the Register of Deeds in any county within the state within 3 days of the ceremony, you will then need to apply and purchase a certified copy of your marriage certificate with the Register of Deeds. This can be done in any county within Wisconsin. The marriage certificate is **required** to officially change your last name. After 1 business day of receiving your marriage certificate you may apply in person or online for Social Security name change. Please visit <https://www.ssa.gov/personal-record/change-name> for additional information.

Don't forget to get your license updated at the DMV and your voter registration updated with your municipal clerk.

Minimum Age to Marry

The legal age to marry in the State of Wisconsin is 18 years of age.

Individuals who are 16 or 17 years of age will need BOTH parents' consent or guardian's consent is required.

Witnesses to the Marriage

Both witnesses must be 18 years of age or over.

Persons Who May Not Marry

Blood relatives - nearer of kin than second cousins, except when the female is 55 years or older, or where either party, at the time of application for a marriage license, submits an affidavit signed by a physician stating either party is permanent.

Any person who has not been legally divorced in this state or any other state for a period of six (6) months.

A marriage may not be contracted if either party has such want of understanding as renders him/her incapable of assenting to marriage (Section 765.03(1), Wis. Stats.)

Wisconsin Department of Health Services Marriage License Information:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p01060.pdf>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/pregnancy/during.html>