

# Marriage Licenses

## What do I need to know before obtaining a marriage license?

- Applicants **MUST** be at least 18 years of age.
- Licenses are valid for 60 days from the issue date.
- Marriage licenses are valid on the third day following application. For example, if you apply for a license on Wednesday, your license is valid on Saturday.
- Blood relatives down to and including first cousins may not marry under Pennsylvania law.
- A marriage license issued in Erie County can be used in any other county in Pennsylvania, but not in any other state

## Types of Marriage Licenses

- Traditional marriage licenses. A traditional license requires an officiant to perform the marriage ceremony. In Pennsylvania, only certain people can perform a marriage ceremony. If you choose to be married by someone who is not qualified under 23 Pa C.S.A. §1503, you will be responsible for proving the legality of the marriage. See [[link for Disclaimer of Liability](#)] for further information.
- Self-uniting (Quaker) marriage license. A self-uniting marriage license does not require an officiant to perform the ceremony. You will need two witnesses to sign the return of marriage and marriage license.

## Documents needed to apply for marriage license

- Both applicants must provide a current, valid photo ID. Acceptable forms of ID include:
  - Driver's license
  - State-issued photo ID
  - U.S. or international passports
  - Military ID

## Previous marriages

- If either applicant was previously married, they must prove that they are no longer married at the time of their application. You must provide your latest divorce decree. If either applicant has resumed a maiden name following the divorce, the applicant must submit proof of resuming his/her maiden name.
- If either applicant's prior marriage was terminated by death, you must provide the death certificate or at least a photocopy of the death certificate of your former spouse.

- Death certificates and divorce decrees must be in English. If the original documents are in another language, they must be translated and certified as accurate.

## **The Marriage Application Process:**

### **Completing the Application**

There are two different ways to complete a marriage license application. The application can be filed online or in person. *It is important to note that the results of this application become legal documentation. It is very important that you proofread your responses very carefully.*

#### **To apply online:**

1. Applicants **MUST** have a valid email and phone number.
2. Applicants **MUST** have access to internet.
3. Applicants **MUST** have access to a printer and scanner.
4. Applicants **MUST** pay the \$65.00 fee online using a credit/debit card (\$60.00 for the marriage application and \$5.00 for one certified copy, which will be mailed to you).
5. Applicants **MUST** upload all the necessary documents in PDF format:
  - a. Applicants **MUST** upload a valid photo ID to verify their identity
  - b. Applicants **MUST** upload a copy of a divorce decree or death certificate, if applicable.
6. Applicants **MUST** be able to read, speak and understand the English language. If you need an interpreter, please call the office to schedule an in-person appointment. You may **NOT** interpret for your fiancé.
7. Please visit <https://courtpro.eriecountypa.gov/row/MarriageLicense> to apply online. Once you are at the site, click, "Login as Guest" then, "e-file Marriage Application.
8. If your application was submitted correctly and accepted by the Marriage Bureau, your credit/debit card will be charged and you will receive an email with a link to schedule your in-person appointment to review and sign your application.

#### **To apply in person:**

1. Applications are by appointment only, Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm or 2:00-3:30 pm. Contact us at (814) 451-6347 to make an appointment.
2. Both applicants must appear together at the time of the appointment.
3. Bring valid photo ID, the \$65.00 filing fee (\$60 for application and \$5.00 for one certified copy), we will only accept cash or card, and any supporting documents (divorce decree, proof of resuming prior name, etc.)
4. You will receive your marriage license at the end of your visit and it will remain valid for 60 days from the issue date.

## Obtaining a Copy of a Marriage Record:

To obtain a copy of your marriage record and/or certified copy, supply the following information, either in person or by mail:

- Both applicant's first, middle, last names, including maiden names
- Date of marriage
- In the alternative, you can print the request form at [\[link to request form\]](#).
- A check or money order payable to "**Clerk of Records**". Certified copies of a marriage record are \$5.00 each and long form certified records (generally used for dual citizenship) are \$15.00 each.
- If you are send the request by mail, send the above information, check or money order, and a self-addressed stamped envelope to:
  - Marriage Bureau  
Erie County Courthouse  
140 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 123  
Erie, PA 16501

## Fee schedule:

- Download the latest [\[link to fee schedule\]](#) for the Marriage Bureau.