

# Marriage License Questions:

## WHAT IS THE LEGAL AGE FOR MARRIAGE IN FLORIDA?

You must be at least eighteen (18) years of age to apply for a marriage license in the State of Florida.

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## WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A MARRIAGE LICENSE?

Both parties of the intended marriage must come into the [Clerk's Office](#). Each party must have a valid photo identification such as a driver's license, state identification card, government or military identification card, or a passport.

A social security number is required to obtain a marriage license. If either party is from a foreign country and not a U.S. citizen, alien registration documentation, or other proof which contains an alien registration number is acceptable to obtain a marriage license.

If either party was previously married and divorced, the date of the divorce will be required. If the date of the divorce was within the thirty days prior to the new application for a marriage license, a certified copy of the recorded final order will be required.

Effective January 1, 1999, a man and woman who are Florida residents must file with the Clerk of the Circuit Court a sworn affidavit, in writing, signed by both parties to the marriage, providing the social security numbers of each party and reciting the true and correct ages of each party. Additionally, a written statement signed by both parties must be provided to the Clerk which specifies whether the parties, separately or together, have completed a premarital preparation course and have read or been made aware of the rights and responsibilities of parties to a marriage as outlined in the [Family Law Handbook](#) as specified in Section 741.0306 Florida Statutes. A valid certificate of completion for both parties from the Premarital Preparation Course provider must also be filed with the application for a marriage license. Exceptions to this requirement apply to non-Florida residents and individuals asserting hardships.

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## WHAT IS A PREMARITAL PREPARATION COURSE?

A Premarital Preparation Course, required by Florida Statutes, is a course provided by a qualified instructor registered with the Clerk of the Circuit Court consisting of not less than 4 hours. The course may include instruction regarding conflict management, communication skills, financial responsibilities, children and parenting responsibilities on actual case data compiled from information reported by married couples who seek counseling. The course may be provided by personal instruction, videotape instruction, instructions via other electronic medium or a combination of these methods.

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#### WHERE CAN I OBTAIN A LIST OF PREMARITAL PREPARATION COURSES?

Premarital Preparation Course providers must register with the Clerk of the Circuit Court. Providers must be qualified instructors such as a licensed psychologist, a licensed clinical social worker, licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed mental health counselor, an official representative of a religious institution with relevant training or any provider designated by the judicial circuit. A roster is available in any Clerk's Office issuing marriage licenses.

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#### IS THERE A REQUIRED WAITING PERIOD?

Florida residents who have satisfied the Premarital Preparation Course requirements and who file the required affidavit and certificate of course completion with the Clerk of the Circuit Court when applying for a marriage license will be issued a marriage license effective the same day.

Non-Florida residents and individuals granted hardship status will not experience a delay in the effective date of a marriage license.

Florida residents who do not or cannot submit valid certificates of completion of a Premarital Preparation Course will be issued a license which has a delayed effective date of three days.

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#### ARE THERE OTHER BENEFITS TO COMPLETING A PREMARITAL PREPARATION COURSE?

Florida residents who complete a Premarital Preparation Course will benefit from a reduction of \$32.50 (See [Schedule of Service Charges, Marriage Licenses](#) ) in the marriage license fee. The course must have been taken no more than one year prior to the date of the application for a marriage license.

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#### ARE BLOOD TESTS REQUIRED FOR A MARRIAGE LICENSE?

No, blood tests are not a requirement for a marriage license.

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#### HOW LONG IS THE MARRIAGE LICENSE VALID?

The marriage must be solemnized within sixty (60) days of issuance of the marriage license. The ceremony can be performed anywhere in the State of Florida.

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#### DO I APPLY FOR A MARRIAGE LICENSE IN THE COUNTY IN WHICH I LIVE?

A marriage license may be applied for in any county in the State of Florida.

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#### WHAT IS THE COST OF A MARRIAGE LICENSE?

Fees for marriage licenses are set by Florida Statutes and are subject to change as a result of

legislative action. A current ["Schedule of Service Charges"](#) is available in any Clerk's Office for your information, as well as online.

Fees for a marriage license for Florida residents are reduced if the parties have completed and provided proof of completion of a Premarital Preparation Course.

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#### CAN I PAY FOR MY MARRIAGE LICENSE WITH A PERSONAL CHECK?

In Pinellas County, personal checks are accepted for a marriage license.

Checks should be made payable to:

KARLEEN F. De BLAKER

Clerk of the Circuit Court

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#### WHERE CAN I APPLY FOR A MARRIAGE LICENSE?

A marriage license may be obtained Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at any one of the following offices of the Clerk of the Circuit Court.

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