

License & Certificates

Beginning January 1, 2008 the marriage license fee will increase from \$60 to \$64 as a result of legislation passed by the 2007 Washington State Legislature.

Requirements:

Both parties must be at least 18 years old.

No blood test, birth certificates or divorce papers are required

Identification may or may not be required depending on the county

A witness is not required.

If you are divorced, the divorce must be final and filed before applying for the license.

Washington State law requires a **three-day waiting period** before the marriage license becomes valid. This means that you must wait at least three full days after the application is filed before the marriage ceremony can be performed. The license is valid for only 60 days. The marriage ceremony must be performed before the 60-day expiration of the license.

By State law, any minister or priest of any church or religious denomination, and any Washington State judge or justice can perform a marriage ceremony.

Marriage Licenses issued in any county are valid for the entire state of WA meaning you do not have to go to the county you intend to marry in to get a license.

Thurston County Auditors Office
2000 Lakeridge Dr. SW, Bldg. 1
Olympia, WA 98502

Pierce County Auditors Office
2401 South 35th Street, Room 200
Tacoma, WA 98409-7414

Kitsap County Courthouse
614 Division Street
Port Orchard, WA

Mason County Auditors Office
411 N 5th St
Shelton, WA 98584

King County
For locations see:
metrokc.gov/lars/marriage/location.htm

Clark County
1300 Franklin St, 2nd Floor
Vancouver, WA

Depending on the county there may be numerous forms that are included with the marriage license, these will include but are not limited to: the license itself, the official marriage certificate, a decorative certificate, instructions for the marriage officiant, and a return envelope. The license and official certificate are to be kept by the officiant to be mailed back to the county in which it was purchased. The decorative certificate is yours to keep. I suggest having a calligrapher or someone with very nice handwriting complete the decorative certificate prior to the ceremony.

IMPORTANT: You will need to check with the county the certificate was purchased in, some may automatically issue a certified copy of the certificate once completed, others you may have to pay for a copy, most will let you pay in advance so you don't have to visit their office a 2nd time. ***A certified copy of the official marriage certificate is needed to legally change your name.***

Applying for License from Out of State

There are a couple of options for obtaining a WA state Marriage License from out of state.

Option #1 - is to complete the form at the following link online and then arriving at least three day prior to your ceremony to sign the application in person at the Thurston County Audiors Office. And we would love to have you at the inn for the days prior to your ceremony and help you with last minute planning and being your guide to our city.

https://fortress.wa.gov/thurstonco/eagleweb/thurstonrecorder/eagleweb/enterDoc.jsp?docType=Tracking_OnlineMarriageApp&Create=Apply%20for%20Marriage%20Application

Option #2 - is to complete the following application, signing it in front of a notary public and mailing it in to be completed.

http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/auditor/Recording/Forms/Marriage_Application.pdf

The County has also come up with the following instructions to help with completing the application and where to mail it.

http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/auditor/Recording/Forms/Instructions_for_Marriage_License_Application.pdf

Note: The license can be from ANY county in the state of WA, these are the instructions for our county, Thurston.