

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR ONE-
DAY SOLEMNIZATION
CERTIFICATES FOR:
OUT OF STATE CLERGY**

PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

If an out-of-state member of the clergy is to perform the marriage, the clergyperson must obtain a Solemnization Certificate or Certificate of Authorization from the Massachusetts Secretary of State prior to the ceremony.

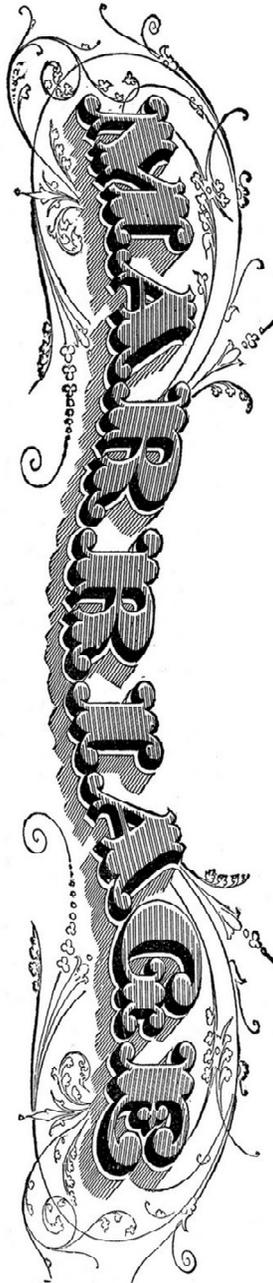
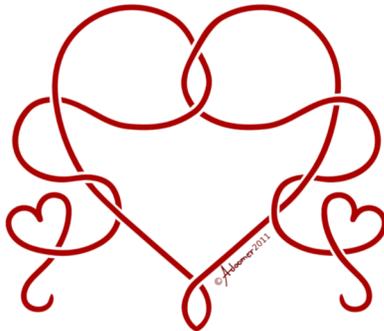
This certificate, which is issued by the Public Records Division of the Office of the Secretary of State, is to be attached to the original license and returned to the clerk of the city or town where the license was issued.

The same procedure applies to private, non-clergy, non-Justice of the Peace individuals.

For further information, contact:

Division of Public Records
Office of the Secretary of State
One Ashburton Place, Room 1703
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 727-2836

www.state.ma.us/sec/pre/premar/marnon.htm



TOWN OF WILLIAMSBURG

**HOW TO OBTAIN A
MARRIAGE LICENSE
IN WILLIAMSBURG,
MASSACHUSETTS**



**Town Clerk's Office
413-268-8402**

Office Hours

Monday: 8:30am-3:30 pm & 5:30 pm-7pm
(evening from May 1-January 1)
Tuesday: 8:30 am-3:30 pm
Thursday: 9 am-2 pm
Or by appointment

HOW TO OBTAIN A **MARRIAGE LICENSE** IN WILLIAMSBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

All people who marry in Massachusetts must have a marriage license issued in Massachusetts. An out-of-state license cannot be issued. This pamphlet outlines the procedures you must follow to obtain the license.

How do we apply for a marriage license?

You must both apply in person for a marriage license. This requirement is applicable to both residents and non-residents of the Commonwealth. According to Massachusetts law, you must jointly file intentions to marry, and you may do so with the city or town clerk in any community in the state. If a person is in the military, intentions may be filed by either party, provided one is a Massachusetts resident. A marriage license, once obtained is valid for 60 days from the date intentions are filed and may be used in any Massachusetts city or town. The license is not valid outside of the state.

Is there a waiting period from the date of filing the intentions to the date the license is issued?

Yes, there is a mandatory three-day waiting period. While weekends and holidays are included in the three days, the day that the intentions are filed is not. For example, if you apply on Friday, your license will be issued on or after Monday. Check with your town clerk to determine whether you must pick it up in person, or if you can authorize another party to pick up the license for you.

May we marry before the three days for good reason?

Yes, if you can obtain a court waiver after filing the intentions.

How do we obtain the waiver?

You should file your intentions first with the city or town clerk. Then an application for waiver must be filed by both of you at a probate or district court. After a hearing, the court may issue a certificate allowing the marriage license to be issued, and the marriage performed without delay.

What is the cost of the marriage license?

In Williamsburg, the fee to file marriage intentions is \$25.00.

At what age may two people marry?

A Massachusetts resident may marry if he or she is 18 years of age or older. A birth certificate may be required as proof of age.

What if one or both of us is under 18?

If either party is under 18 years of age, a court order from a probate or district court where the minor resides must be obtained before the marriage intentions can be filed.

Is a medical certificate required before a license can be issued?

No a medical certificate is not required after January 28, 2005.

What if one or both of us has been divorced?

You are not required to present a divorce decree when filing intentions to marry. However, it is extremely important that an individual who has been divorced be certain that his/her divorce is absolute.

If you are uncertain as to the absolute date of your divorce, you should contact the court where your divorce was granted. In Massachusetts, a divorce does not become absolute until 90 days after the divorce has been granted, regardless of the grounds for divorce.

Do we need any witnesses present at the ceremony?

Massachusetts statute does not require that witnesses be present at your ceremony. However, if a member of the clergy does the ceremony, you should ensure that you are in conformity with the appropriate religious tenets.

What are the responsibilities of the member of the clergy or the Justice of the Peace?

The member of the clergy or Justice of the Peace must complete and sign the original license and return it to the clerk of the city or town where the license was issued.