

How do I apply for a Marriage /Civil Union License?

****Applications are taken by appointment only. Please call (973) 535-7961.***

The license must be obtained from the municipality in which either party resides, if they live in New Jersey. If both parties live outside of New Jersey the license must be obtained in the municipality in which the ceremony takes place.

A license applied for and issued in New Jersey may never be used outside of New Jersey, and a license issued in another state may never be used in New Jersey.

When should you apply for your Marriage License/Civil Union?

State law prohibits the issuance of a license sooner than 72 hours after application for a Marriage/Civil Union license has been made (unless a superior court order has been obtained which waives the 72 hour waiting period).

Thus, if the ceremony is scheduled for a Saturday or a Sunday, the application should be made no later than the preceding Tuesday at 8:30 am. It is important to know the intended date of the ceremony at the time application is made to insure compliance of the 72-hour waiting period.

If either party is unable to complete the application at the same time, either applicant may complete their part of the application and start the 72-hour waiting period. The other applicant must return with the same witness to complete their part of the application. The application must be completed by both parties before the license can be issued.

Once the Marriage/Civil Union license is issued, the ceremony must take place within 30 days. If, for whatever reason, either parties can only apply for their license several months prior to the intended date of Marriage/Civil Union, the license simply remains in the files of the Registrar until the license is issued within 30 days of the wedding (arrangements made at time of application).

What should each applicant bring when applying for a Marriage/Civil Union License?

- Birth Certificate (translated in English) or valid passport
- Proof of address in the form of a valid driver's license, current utility bill, lease, etc.
 - *If marrying in Livingston and reside out of state, only a passport is required for residency proof
- Social security number is required; proof is requested but not required
- \$28.00 cash to apply
- Officiant contact information: title, phone number, address
- One witness, 18 years or older, with a valid photo state ID
- If one or both of the applicants are divorced, a copy of the final decree(s) is requested but not required
- If one or both of the applicants have had a previous Civil Union dissolved, Domestic Partnership terminated or have had a Civil Union annulled, the decree(s) or the civil annulment documents is requested but not required
- If former spouse/Civil Union or domestic partner is deceased, the death certificate is requested but not required
- If one or more parties do not speak English, a translator is required who is not related

Requirements for entering into a Civil Union:

For two people to establish a Civil Union in New Jersey, they must satisfy all of the following requirements:

- Not be a party to another Civil Union, Domestic Partnership or Marriage in this state or that is recognized by this state;
- Be of the same sex; and
- Be at least 18 years of age, except that applicants under 18 may enter into a Civil Union with parental consent. Applicants under age 16 must obtain parental consent and have the consent approved in writing by any judge of the Superior Court, Chancery Division, Family Part.

Same sex couples who meet the above requirements and are registered as domestic partners may enter into a Civil Union with the same person without terminating their Domestic Partnership first. If the Domestic Partnership was registered in New Jersey, it automatically terminates when the Civil Union is registered. If the Domestic Partnership was registered in another state, that state's laws determine the impact on the Domestic Partnership. A couple that has previously entered into a Civil Union or a Same-Sex Marriage shall apply for a Reaffirmation of Civil Union License.

Requirements for entering into a Reaffirmation:

For two people to establish a Reaffirmation of Civil Union in New Jersey, they must be able to provide proof, in the form of a certified copy, that they are currently registered in a Civil Union in this state or a Civil Union/Same-Sex Marriage in another state and meet the requirements of the New Jersey Civil Union Act.