

How to Get Married in Ontario - 101

Marriage License applications can be obtained at the Town of Newmarket's Customer Service Centre 905-895-5193 or on the Town's website www.newmarket.ca

Please review all Marriage License Requirements before completing the application.

Office Hours for Issuance of Marriage License

Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please allow 20 to 30 minutes to process and issue the marriage license. Office is closed on all Government Statutory Holidays.

License Fee

\$125.00 – Cash, Debit Card, Visa, Mastercard, American Express

Requirements

Age Requirements

Any person who is at least 18 years of age may marry.

Applicants who are 16 or 17 years of age are required to submit a completed **Consent of Parent or Guardian to Marriage Form** signed by both parents (or legal guardian) when making application for a marriage license. The **Consent of Parent or Guardian to Marriage Form** is available from the Town's Customer Service Centre.

Identification

Original identification for both applicants is required. Two (2) pieces of identification must be shown for each party confirming name, birth date and signature.

First piece of identification must be one of the following:

- Birth Certificate
- Current Passport with photo
- Record of Immigrant Landing
- Canadian Citizenship Card

Second piece of identification must be photo identification, which can be one of the following:

- Driver's License
- Ontario Health Card with photo
- Current Passport with photo (providing it is not used as the first piece of identification)

These documents are required for all applicants. Documents presented in a language other than English, must be supported by a translation by an authorized translator.

Obtaining a License When One Applicant is Absent

One applicant to the marriage may submit the completed application form to the Town's Customer Service Centre in order to obtain a Marriage License, provided that the required original identification/documentation for the absent party is presented. The application must be original and signed by both applicants.

Prior Marriage

Canadian Divorce

If there has been a previous marriage and the divorce was granted in Canada, you are required to bring the original Certificate of Divorce or the Decree Absolute, or a court certified true copy of same, along with your marriage license application. Please note that **a photocopy is not acceptable**. Also a **Divorce Judgment, Divorce Order or Decree Nisi issued by the Court is not acceptable**. All documents will be returned.

Divorce Outside of Canada

An applicant whose former marriage was dissolved or annulled in a jurisdiction other than Canada must obtain authorization from the Office of the Registrar General before a marriage license may be issued.

To obtain this authorization, the applicants or a lawyer representing the applicants, must submit:

- A completed Marriage License Application
- A Statement of Sole Responsibility for each divorce signed by both parties of this marriage. Blank affidavits are available at the Town.
- The original Certificate of Divorce or the Decree Absolute, or a **court certified copy** of same. If the decree is in a language other than English or French, include a translated copy together with an affidavit sworn by the translator. (A court-certified copy means certified by the proper court officer in the jurisdiction the divorce or annulment was granted.)
- A legal opinion of an Ontario Lawyer, addressed to both applicants, giving reasons why the divorce or annulment should be recognized in the Province of Ontario.

To the Office of the Registrar General, P.O. Box 4600, 189 Red River Road, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6L8

Widow or Widower

If either party to the marriage license application is a widow or widower, they are not required to produce a death certificate to obtain a marriage license.

Residency and Citizenship

There are no residency or citizenship requirements in Ontario.

Blood Tests

Blood tests or medical certificates are not required in Ontario.

Declaration Made by Applicants

When applying for a marriage license, you are required to certify information under oath. If you do not understand or are not able to read English, please bring an interpreter to assist you.

Expiry Date of Marriage License

A marriage license is valid for use anywhere in Ontario for three (3) months from the date of issue.

Marriage Ceremony

It is your responsibility to arrange the marriage ceremony. A marriage ceremony may be performed in Ontario by a minister, clergyman or Town Clerk registered under the *Marriage Act*.

The Town as a courtesy to persons contemplating marriage has put together a list of officiates. This list is by no means an exhaustive list of persons who may be authorized to perform marriages. The Town does not endorse any specific person(s) noted on this courtesy list. The list is available from the Town's Customer Service Centre.

If you wish to be added to this list and are able to perform marriage ceremonies under the *Marriage Act*, please forward your information to the Clerk's Department.

Publication of Banns

A marriage may be solemnized under the authority of the publication of banns if both parties to the proposed marriage worship regularly at their own church in Canada.

No one may marry under the authority of the publication of banns if there was a previous marriage (dissolved or annulled). Further information concerning marriage under the authority of the publication of banns may be obtained from a minister or a member of the clergy.

Name Change Options as a Result of Marriage

Assuming a Spouse's or Partner's Name

Assuming a name due to a relationship is the most common practice in Canada.

Once you are married, you may apply to change all your identification (health card, driver's license, passport and banking information etc.) with your marriage certificate. You may assume your spouse's/partner's last name (surname) or a combination of your last name and your spouse's/partner's last name (hyphenated surname). It is really that simple.

The benefit of not completing a legal name change is that it does not change the name on your birth certificate.

If you wish to use your legal name again, you simply revert back by presenting your birth certificate as proof of your legal name.

Record of Marriage

The Record of Marriage given to the couple following the marriage ceremony is the only proof a couple will have of their marriage until it is officially registered by the Office of the Registrar General. The person solemnizing the marriage is responsible for submitting the **Form 7 Statement of Marriage** to the Office of the Registrar General. It may take up to twelve (12) weeks to finalize the registration.

Marriage Outside of Ontario

If your marriage took place outside of Ontario, your marriage is not registered in Ontario. Your marriage will be registered in the jurisdiction where the marriage license was issued. If you require a Marriage Certificate, you will have to contact the Office which issued your license.

Marriage Certificate:

How to Request a Marriage Certificate

Marriage Certificate Applications for a marriage that took place in Ontario can be obtained from the Town's Customer Service Centre or on-line at ServiceOntario.

A completed Marriage Certificate Application together with the required fee can be:

1. Mailed to the Office of the Registrar General, P.O. Box 4600, 189 Red River Road, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6L8;
2. Faxed to the Office of the Registrar General at 807-343-7459 provided payment is made by credit card or
3. Completed online at ServiceOntario, credit card is required.

How to Obtain Old Marriage Records

The Office of the Registrar General holds records for marriages that happened in Ontario during the past 80 years. For information on older records you should refer to the Archives of Ontario Website or the Vital Statistics hot line at 416-327-1593.

How to Obtain a Marriage Certificate for Another Province

Refer to Canadian Vital Certificates website.