

This pamphlet is designed to assist you in planning your marriage ceremony. It contains valuable information that you need to know to ensure that your marriage plans go smoothly. The information applies to residents and nonresidents.

RELATIONSHIP

Marriage is not permitted in Maine between two people who are related by blood to one another under Title 19-A, §651 (3) *with the following exception:*

If the parties recording notice of their intentions to marry are related (first cousins) as described in Title 19-A, section 701, subsection 2, the parties shall submit to the clerk, at the time of recording their intentions to marry, a certificate from a physician stating that the parties have received genetic counseling from the physician.

AGE/PARENTAL CONSENT

A person who has reached the age of 18 may marry without parental consent. If either party is under the age of 18 they **MUST** have consent from the parent(s) or legal guardian before the marriage license can be issued. The parent(s) or guardian may appear in person before the Department or municipal clerk where the license was applied for and give consent, or they may give consent in writing before a notary public to be presented to the Department or clerk. Parties under the age of 16 are not permitted to be married in the State of Maine.

IF YOU HAVE BEEN MARRIED BEFORE

If either party has been married before and are divorced or widowed, a certified copy of documentation showing how the last marriage ended is required.

FILING INTENTIONS/FEEES

The first step in obtaining a marriage license is to have the marriage intentions recorded in writing. Both parties must complete and sign the intentions, stating they are free to marry, in the presence of a municipal clerk or a notary public. There is a \$40.00 fee to obtain a marriage license.

If either of the parties are residents of Maine, they must file their intentions with the Department or in the municipal office in the which one of them resides.

If only one party to the marriage resides in Maine and the other party resides outside the State of Maine, then both parties must file their intentions at the municipal office in the town/city where the Maine resident lives.

If neither one of the parties is a resident of Maine, they must file intentions, but may file in any municipal clerk's office. Once the intentions are filed and the license is issued, the parties are free to marry anywhere within the State.

WAITING PERIOD

There is **NO** waiting period in the State of Maine. Once the intentions are filed, the license may be issued immediately.

OBTAINING YOUR MARRIAGE LICENSE

Once the intentions have been filed, the two parties have signed the marriage license, and all other requirements for obtaining a marriage license have been met, the marriage license may be issued to the either party. The license must be used within 90 days (not three months) from the date the intentions were filed.

PERSONS AUTHORIZED TO SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGES IN MAINE

If a resident of this state:

- ❖ A justice or judge;
- ❖ A lawyer admitted to the Maine Bar;
- ❖ A marriage officiant under Title 5, section 90 G

Whether a resident or nonresident of the State and whether or not a citizen of the United States:

- ❖ An ordained minister of the gospel;
- ❖ A cleric engaged in the service of the religious body to which the cleric belongs; or
- ❖ A person licensed to preach by an association of ministers, religious seminary or ecclesiastical body.

If a nonresident of the State of Maine:

- ❖ A nonresident of Maine who has a temporary registration certificate issued by the Maine CDC vital records office.

THE CEREMONY

After the marriage ceremony has taken place, the person who performed the ceremony is responsible for completing the ceremony section of the marriage license. This includes obtaining signatures of two (2) witnesses and the signature of the officiant. The person performing the ceremony (officiant) **CANNOT** be one of the two witnesses to the ceremony. **THE MARRIAGE LICENSE MUST BE COMPLETED IN BLACK INK ONLY!!** Once the ceremony has taken place and the ceremony section has been completed, the officiant is then responsible for filing the license(s) with the municipal clerks at the municipality where the license was issued within 7 days.

*If a Maine resident goes to another State to get married to avoid Maine requirements, or if a nonresident comes to Maine to avoid the requirements of his/her state of residence, the marriage is considered to be null and void.

COPIES

Copies of your marriage certificate are available from the municipal clerk who issued the license and also from the Department. A fee does apply.

DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIPS IN MAINE

Beginning in 2004, Maine implemented a Domestic Partners Registry. If you are planning to be married in Maine and you have already registered in Maine as a Domestic Partner, the partnership becomes void upon the date of the marriage.

When completing the marriage intentions, parties are required to report if they are a registered Domestic Partner in Maine.

If you would like more information on Domestic Partnerships in Maine, please go to our web site at www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/public-health-systems/data-research/vital-records.

QUESTIONS

If you have any further questions, please contact either a municipal clerk or the Maine CDC vital records office at:

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
(Maine CDC)
Vital Records Office
220 Capitol Street
11 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
(207) 287-6490

DHHS Non-Discrimination Notice

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) does not discriminate on the basis of disability, race, color, creed, gender, sexual orientation, age, or national origin, in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services, or activities, or its hiring or employment practices. This notice is provided as required by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and in accordance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Maine Human Rights Act and Executive Order Regarding State of Maine Contracts for Services. Questions, concerns, complaints or requests for additional information regarding the ADA may be forwarded to the DHHS ADA Compliance/EEO Coordinators, 11 State House Station – 221 State Street, Augusta, Maine 04333, 207-287-4289 (V), or 287-3488 (V),”TTY users call Maine relay 711”. Individuals who need auxiliary aids for effective communication in program and services of DHHS are invited to make their needs and preferences known to the ADA Compliance/EEO Coordinators. This notice is available in alternate formats, upon request.

To order additional copies of this publication or if you have questions about the content, please call: Maine CDC, Data, Research, and Vital Statistics at 207-287-5500. “TTY users call Maine relay 711”.



PLANNING YOUR MARRIAGE IN MAINE

Maine Center for Disease Control and
Prevention
(Maine CDC)
Vital Records Office
220 Capitol Street
11 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
(207) 287-3771 Fax : (207) 287-1093
TTY Users: Dial 711 (Maine Relay)