



## Heather H. Hawthorne

County Clerk  
(409) 267-8309

### Marriage Information

Where do you get a Marriage License?

Answer: A couple that intends to be married in Texas MUST apply in person for a marriage license at a Texas County Clerk's Office. Both the bride and the groom in the presence of the County Clerk must sign the application for a license. There are a few exceptions as noted in the Texas Statutes.

How and where do I obtain the marriage education certificate and what is the cost?

Answer: Texas now encourages free marriage education classes around the state for premarital couples. The classes are at least 8 hours long and after completing the class, you will get a certificate that you can take to your County Clerk when applying for your marriage license. To find a class log onto <http://www.togetherintexas.com> or <http://thehappy-family.com>

What is the fee for the license?

Answer: There is a \$12.00 fee if a marriage education certificate is presented otherwise there is a \$72.00 fee without the certificate that is payable only in **CASH or CREDIT CARD.**

How long must I wait between the time I get my license and the actual ceremony?

Answer: There must be at least 72 hours between the time of issuance of a license and the time the ceremony occurs unless one applicant is on active duty in the armed forces; or completion of a marriage education class; or a waiver is granted. A waiver may only be waived by a County Judge or District Judge.

A marriage license is only valid for 30 days, so with the 72 hour waiting period, there is only a 27 day period in which the marriage ceremony can take place. The license is valid in any county in Texas.

What are the requirements to obtain a license?

- proof of identity and age (Drivers' License, State Identification card, or other document issued by this state or another state, United States or a foreign country, or certified copy of applicants birth certificate)
- if required, the documents establishing parental consent, should the applicant be under the age of 18
- the information to complete the license application
- a divorce by either party must be final 30 days prior to the marriage license application
- verbalize the oath printed on the application and sign the application before the County Clerk
- there is no law requiring a blood test

After the wedding, what do I need to do with the license?

Answer: The license will need to be mailed or brought back to the County Clerk's office. The license will be recorded into public records and will be returned to you in 10-12 days.

**For additional information please call 409-267-8309.**