



Requirements for Obtaining a Marriage License

1. A marriage license is valid for thirty days from issuance. A seventy-two hour waiting period is required from the time the marriage license is issued until the wedding can take place unless, one of the applicants is in the military or a waiver of the waiting period is obtained from a District Judge. Therefore, the wedding must take place at least 72 hours after the license is issued and before thirty days have passed from the date the license is issued.
2. Each applicant should bring valid identification (drivers license, certified copy of birth certificate, DPS issued identification card or a passport) when applying for the marriage license. Both applicants must swear or affirm that the information provided is correct and both sign the application for the marriage license unless one applicant cannot be present, an absent applicant form must be completed, signed by the absent applicant and notarized before being submitted with the absent applicants proper (ORIGINAL) identification. The clerk may not issue a marriage license for which both applicants are absent unless the person applying on behalf of each absent applicant provides to the clerk an affidavit of the applicant declaring that the applicant is:
 - a) On active duty as a member of the armed forces of the United States or the state military forces; or
 - (b) Confined in a correctional facility, as defined by Section 1.07, Penal Code.
3. At least one applicant must appear in person for the Marriage License to be issued.
4. WE DO NOT ACCEPT CHECKS OR CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS FOR A MARRIAGE LICENSE. The cost is \$72.00 in CASH ONLY. Unless, you have taken the "TWOGETHER IN TEXAS" workshop. What is Twogether in Texas? It is a state program working in partnership with a federal Healthy Marriage Initiative which:
 - ** Is effective September 1, 2008.
 - ** Allows a couple who attends an eight-hour, qualifying premarital education course to forgo the 72 hour waiting period after applying for a marriage license.
 - ** Reduces the marriage license fee from \$72.00 to \$12.00
 - ** The course completion certificate is good for one year.Who should a couple contact to obtain more information on the state sponsored premarital education classes?

FAMILY SERVICES OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS
990 IH-10 NORTH, SUITE 140
BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77702
www.familyservicesetx.org
409-833-2668
4. Once the license has been issued, it is given to the applicants who should present it to the officiating authority authorized to conduct the wedding. The officiating authority should subscribe the date of marriage and his/her signature to the license and return it to our office.
5. After the license is returned to our office for recording, it may take up to 7-10 business days to receive your original license in the mail. However, if it is needed sooner, a certified copy of the license and application may be obtained from our office for \$7.00. (Females: If you are going to change your last name you will need a certified copy to take to social security & the DPS office)
6. If for any reason the marriage license is unused, please return it to our office along with a note stating that it was unused. If the license is never returned with an explanation, the record reflects that it was issued but not recorded, therefore the outcome is unknown.

