



## Marriage FAQ

Are there any requirements to be married in New Jersey?

Yes, you must be at least 18 years of age and you cannot be a party to another civil union, domestic partnership or marriage recognized in this state.

Where do I apply for a marriage license?

You apply for your marriage license application in the New Jersey municipality in which either party resides. If neither person lives in New Jersey, then you must apply where the ceremony will take place.

Is there a registrar available at any time?

No, marriage license applications are taken by appointment only. Please call a member of staff to assist you.

What do I need to have with me to apply?

- Proof of identity; driver's license (Expired I.D. is not considered valid), passport, or state/federal I.D.
- Proof of residency for at least one of the applicants (utility bill, lease agreement, vehicle registration, bank statement)
- Social Security number is required by law for US citizens and is kept confidential
- A completed Marriage License Application, please **do not sign it** as it must be signed in the presence of the issuing authority while under oath.
- The \$28.00 application fee- EXACT cash or check/money order made payable to the Borough of South Toms River.
- A witness, 18 years of age or older that must have a valid government-issued photo I.D.

Can I pick up the license immediately?

No, there is a minimum 72-hour waiting period before a license can be issued following the time of an application.

Does the marriage license expire?

Yes, the license must be used within 30 days of the pick-up date.

What is the difference between a Marriage License and a Marriage Certificate?

A Marriage License is the legal document which one must have to **get** married. A Marriage Certificate is the legal document that proves that you have **been** married.

How do I get started?

The first step is to select an Officiant. An Officiant is the person who performs the actual marriage ceremony. Once you have confirmed both the Officiant and the date of the ceremony you can schedule an appointment with the Township to apply for your Marriage License.

My Officiant was not ordained in New Jersey and he is the pastor of a church located in another state. Must the Officiant be based in New Jersey in order to marry us?

No. Anyone qualified to perform marriages in any other jurisdiction is qualified to perform marriages in New Jersey.

I already have an Officiant, he is the Minister from my church. Does he have to register with the Township Clerk's Office in order to marry us?

No. The Clerk's Office will not ask for proof that the Officiant you have chosen is qualified to perform marriages.

Who can officiate a wedding in New Jersey?

Please see the attached list from the New Jersey Office of Vital Statistics.

Can the Township Clerk marry us?

No. According to State law only certain public officials such as judges and religious ministers are legally permitted to serve as Officiants. The Township Clerk **only** issues Marriage Licenses and Marriage Certificates.

Do I need to have witnesses for the actual marriage ceremony itself?

Yes. You must have two (2) witnesses. The Officiant **cannot** also serve as a witness.

Once the marriage ceremony is over and the Officiant and both witnesses have signed the Marriage License where do I bring it?

You must file both Copy 1 and 2 of the Marriage License with the Township **where the ceremony took place**. If you obtained your marriage License in South Toms River but your marriage ceremony took place in Ocean City then you must file it in Ocean City. Only submit Copy 1 and 2; you should retain Copy 3 for your records and Copy 4 is for the Officiant's records.

Where do I go to obtain my Marriage Certificate?

You must apply to the Township **where your marriage ceremony took place**. PLEASE NOTE: Marriage Certificates are **not** provided automatically; you must request them by completing a Vital Records Request and pay the corresponding fee.

Now that I am married I want to take my spouse's last name. Do I apply at the Clerk's Office to change my name?

No. Name changes are processed by the Social Security Administration. Go to [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) or call 1-800-772-1213. Once you have obtained your new social security card you would then proceed to the MVC agency to change your driver's license. **You will need to provide a certified copy** of your marriage license to the MVC agency. Please go to [www.state.nj.us/mvc](http://www.state.nj.us/mvc) or call toll free in NJ 888-486-3339.

My partner and I are already married in another country. Do we have the option to get re-married here?

Yes. For individuals who are currently married in another state or country the option exists to reaffirm your relationship/vows by registering a remarriage. To apply for a remarriage the couple must provide proof of their existing marriage, meet the requirements for entering into a marriage in New Jersey and complete the license application. The process is the same, except that there is no waiting period before the license is issued.

If you have any questions regarding Marriage Licenses or Marriage Certificates please contact:

Thea Kratochvil, Deputy Registrar: [t.kratochvil@boroughofsouthtomsriver.com](mailto:t.kratochvil@boroughofsouthtomsriver.com)  
Jamie Jubert, Registrar: [j.jubert@boroughofsouthtomsriver.com](mailto:j.jubert@boroughofsouthtomsriver.com)

For more information please visit the state of New Jersey's website on Vital Statistics and Registry at <https://www.nj.gov/health/vital/>

**Please note it is your responsibility to ensure that all the information on the Marriage License is both factually correct and spelled correctly.**