

## Marriage Requirements

1. Each individual getting married must be 18 years old or older. Exceptions are allowed with court intervention.
2. An officiant commissioned to solemnize a marriage in Massachusetts such as a Justice of the Peace.
3. A valid marriage license (Massachusetts Certificate of Marriage)
  - a. Couple must go *together* to *any* Massachusetts town/city clerk to fill out an application of intent to marry
  - b. The town does not need to be the town in which you live nor the town in which you intend to be married
  - c. Proof of age is required such as a valid driver's license or passport with a photo ID
  - d. There is no blood test requirement
  - e. There is no residency requirement
  - f. There is a three (3) day waiting period before you can pick up the license; the day of the application is not included in the three (3) days, weekends and holidays are included
  - g. The license is valid for sixty (60) days from the date of the application
  - h. When picking up the license, make sure all information is correct before leaving the clerk's office
  - i. The marriage license *must* be left with the Justice of the Peace/officiant before the ceremony; he/she is required by law to mail the license back to the town/city clerk from where it originated by the tenth day of the following month

### Notes:

- The Justice of the Peace/Officiant *cannot* give you a copy of the marriage license. Once official, and for a small fee, the couple can obtain a copy from the town/city clerk of origin. The Justice of the Peace/Officiant, may provide a *non-official* Certificate of Marriage at the end of the ceremony, which may be witnessed by members of the wedding party, as a remembrance.
- The cost of a marriage license varies from town to town; it may cost \$20 or so.
- It is wise to check with the town/city clerk where you will be getting the marriage license as to his/her requirements beforehand to ensure that you are fully prepared.