

Marriage License Information



This Pamphlet is provided by

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Office Hours – Monday through Friday

*Applications are accepted **by appointment only** from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 P.M.

www.buffalocountywi.gov

INFORMATION GUIDE

Age: Any person who has attained the age of 18 years may marry if otherwise competent. If a person is between the age of 16 and 18 years, a license may be issued with written consent of the person's parents, legal guardian, or custodian (Please call the County Clerk for details). It is illegal for anyone under the age of 16 to marry in Wisconsin. Legal Guardian must show proof of custody and be present at time of application.

Relationship: Persons closer in relationship than second cousins may not marry. Two exceptions are that (1) first cousins may marry if the female has attained the age of 55 years or (2) either party, at the time of application for marriage license, submits an affidavit signed by a physician stating that either party is permanently sterile.

Divorced Persons: Persons whose last marriage ended by divorce may not remarry until 6 months after the granting of the judgment of divorce, regardless of the residence of the divorcing parties now or at the time of the divorce. Applicants who have divorced outside of the state (including foreign countries) cannot marry in Wisconsin until 6 months have elapsed from the final divorce decree date. No waiting period is required for court annulments.

Residency: Application can be made in any county in Wisconsin. The residency requirement is no longer required after July 1, 2022.

Proxy & Common Law: Marriage by proxy is not permissible in Wisconsin. Common Law marriages are not recognized in this state. Questions about your status concerning a common law marriage in another state or country must be resolved by your legal counsel. We are not permitted to give legal advice.

Application: Both parties must apply together in person. The Marriage License/Certificate will be issued on the 4th day after the date of application.

Fee: The application fee of \$75.00 is payable at the time of application by cash.

If the couple should be unable to apply within the required time due to extenuating circumstances, the County Clerk, at their discretion, may waive the waiting period. A form requesting that the waiting period be waived must be completed and an additional fee of \$25.00 will be charged.

Proof of Age: Both parties are required to present a certified copy of their birth certificate which has a raised seal on it from the State or County where you were born or a Real ID. If using a Real ID the applicant must know their parents' full names and maiden name (if applicable). (*Hospital Birth Certificates and State Notification of Birth Registrations are not acceptable*).

Photo ID and Proof of Residency: Both parties must present photo identification (*Current, valid driver's license, alien card, school ID, etc.*) and documentation showing a correct address for proof of residency (*drivers license, rent receipt, checking account, utility bill, etc.*)

Social Security Numbers: Both parties must provide their social security number. It is not necessary for you to bring the actual card with you.

Proof of how Last Marriage Ended: If either applicant was previously married, they must provide a certified copy of the divorce decree or death certificate.

Foreign Language: Documents in another language must have a certified translation. Persons who do not speak and/or understand English must bring an independent interpreter not related to either party when applying.

The regulations contained in this pamphlet are governed by the laws of the State of Wisconsin. The regulations are the same statewide. The cost of a Marriage License/Certificate and Waiver Fee may vary from County to County.

Marriage License/Certificate

The Marriage License/Certificate is issued 3 days after the application (on the 4th day). One of the applicants or their designee can pick up the License/Certificate any time on or after the date of issue or the license can be mailed to the applicants. The Marriage License/Certificate is valid for 60 days from the date of issuance. We are not responsible for a lost or misplaced license/certificate. A \$5.00 reprint fee will apply.

Ceremony and Officiant Filing

The couple will take the marriage license/certificate to the wedding ceremony where the officiant and witnesses sign the document. The officiant completes the portion of the license assigned to him or her. The officiant files the original marriage certificate with the Register of Deeds in any county in Wisconsin within 3 days after the date of the marriage.

Certified Copies of Marriage License/ Certificate

Certified copies of the Marriage License/Certificate can be obtained from the Register of Deeds in any County in the State of Wisconsin. The cost for a certified copy is \$20 for the first copy and \$3 for each additional copy obtained at the same time.

VITAL RECORDS

How to obtain Birth/Death Certificates:

If the Birth/Death occurred in Wisconsin a certified document may be obtained at the following location:

Buffalo County Register of Deeds
Carol Burmeister
407 S. 2nd St.
Alma, WI 54610
Telephone: 608-685-6230

If the birth/death occurred in another State go to: www.cdc.gov/nchs

How to obtain Divorce judgments:

Copies of final Divorce judgments are available from the county where the event occurred. To obtain divorce judgment from **Buffalo County** please contact:

Clerk of Courts
407 S. 2nd St.
Alma, WI 54610
Telephone: 608-685-6212

If the divorce occurred elsewhere in the State of Wisconsin contact the Clerk of Courts in that county or go to: www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/vitalrecords

If the divorce occurred in another State go to: www.cdc.gov/nchs

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- _____ Certified copy of birth certificate
(NOT a Hospital Certificate or State
Notification of Birth Registration) or Real ID (with knowledge of parents' full names).
Must be 18 years of age or 16 with legal guardian written consent. Legal guardians must be
present at the time of the application and must provide proof of custody.
- _____ Current Valid Photo ID
- _____ Proof of residency.
- _____ Social Security numbers (You do not need to bring your card)
- _____ Proof of how marriage ended –
(Death Certificate, Legal Annulment, or Divorce Judgment)
- _____ \$75.00 application fee – cash or local check only. No credit/debit cards.
- _____ Foreign language - Documents in
another language must have a certified
translation. Persons who do not speak
and/or understand English must bring
an independent interpreter not related
to either party when they apply.
- _____ Name, address, and phone number of
Wedding Officiant.
- _____ Both parties must apply together in person. If legal guardian consent is needed, they will need to
accompany you to your appointment.
- _____ Make an appointment to apply.

No walk-in appointments allowed.