

## **Minnesota Marriage License Information**

### **Applying for a License**

You can apply for a marriage license in any Minnesota county if you are both 18 and will be married in Minnesota. You don't need to live in that county or in the State of Minnesota. You don't need to be an American citizen. The marriage license is valid anywhere in the State of Minnesota. A list of License offices where a marriage license can be purchased is listed below. You can also go on the Internet and check the county web sites for forms and information. The web sites are all [www.co.\(county's name\).mn.us](http://www.co.(county's name).mn.us) - for example [www.co.hennepin.mn.us](http://www.co.hennepin.mn.us) is Hennepin County.

### **Requirements**

Both parties are required to apply together in person. Sometimes, due to military service or other reason, one party cannot be present. The absent person must sign the application and have his or her signature notarized. Discuss this first with the license center staff. You will need this information - full names before and after marriage, addresses, social security numbers, dates and places of birth. If either, or both, are divorced, you will need to know the date and county where the divorce was granted. Identification requirements vary in each county. A valid driver's license, photo I.D., or certified copy of a birth certificate may be requested. Call for information before you go to the license center.

### **Special Conditions**

If either applicant is under 18, has a criminal felony conviction, is widowed or divorced, special requirements may apply. A copy of a decree of dissolution, or a death certificate for a deceased spouse, may be required. You must list the date, county and state of a dissolution of marriage. Call the location where you will apply for more information.

### **Cost**

The license fee is \$110.00. It's best to take cash or a credit card, if the license office accepts credit cards. If you pay by check, some counties may require a delay of three weeks before they will issue a Marriage License. Some counties charge \$5.00 more to mail the license. The \$110.00 fee can be reduced to \$40.00 with 12 hours of premarital counseling.

### **Premarital Counseling**

Premarital counseling is not required, but a reduced marriage license fee of \$40.00 is available if you have had 12 hours of premarital counseling. Request further information at the license office or the Officiant.

[Tom@tgarmstrong.com](mailto:Tom@tgarmstrong.com) or [tgarmstrong@comcast.net](mailto:tgarmstrong@comcast.net)  
Home 651-773-4092 / Fax 651-773-4850 / [www.tgarmstrong.com](http://www.tgarmstrong.com)

## **Waiting Period**

No blood test is required, but there is a minimum five day waiting period after the day of application, if one party has a felony conviction and is requesting a name change there is a 30 day waiting period, and in some counties 21 days if you pay by check. The five day waiting period can be waived by a District Judge.

## **How long is a marriage license good for?**

Your license will be valid in any Minnesota county for six months after it's issued. Once the six months have past from the date of issue, you need to purchase another marriage license.

## **What if I lose or misplace the license?**

A marriage license can be reissued. Some counties may charge a fee for doing this.

## **Marital Name Changes**

If you intend to change your name at the time of marriage you will indicate this on the application for your marriage license. The Officiant is required to file the completed Certificate of Marriage with the county which issued the license. That county will then mail you a certified copy and you can use the certified copy for changing your name. Social security, driver's license, passport, etc. will all have to be changed.

## **Can both the Bride and Groom change their names?**

The wording of Minnesota Statute 517.08 subd. 1a. (9) has been interpreted differently in each county in the Twin City area. Some counties only allow the couple to adopt one or both of their two last names. Some counties, including Anoka, Ramsey, and Washington County, allow a couple to choose an altogether different name. Before you buy your marriage license in a county be sure that your choice of names is acceptable. A marriage license can be purchased in any county in Minnesota and the ceremony can then be performed anywhere in the State. Shop around until your proposed name change is acceptable; and then purchase your license in that county.

## **How do I prove that my name has been changed?**

On the day of your marriage ceremony, The Officiant may give you one or two signed copies of the marriage certificate – or the Officiant may only have the original and take that with him to be filed. It depends on which county from which you purchased your marriage license.

On August 1<sup>st</sup> 2009, the law changed as to marriage certificates. Before that date, there were an original and two copies of the certificate of marriage. These uncertified "souvenir" copies

[Tom@tgarmstrong.com](mailto:Tom@tgarmstrong.com) or [tgarmstrong@comcast.net](mailto:tgarmstrong@comcast.net)  
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were really duplicate originals. All three would be signed and the blanks filled in. The Officiant would take the original and leave the two. After August 1<sup>st</sup> 2009, the law only requires the County to issue an original certificate – with no copies. Some Counties are still issuing the original and two copies, and some only one copy, and most Counties are issuing only the original.

After the marriage ceremony the Officiant is required to mail or deliver the original signed marriage certificate to the county from which it was purchased. Approximately two to three weeks after the date of marriage, the county will mail a certified copy of the marriage certificate to the address listed on the application. This certified copy has a certification stamp and a raised seal. You can obtain additional certified copies at any time from any county in Minnesota for a fee. A certified copy is all that is legally required as proof of your marriage and your new name.

### **Where to Purchase Marriage Licenses**

Call or go to the county website for hours of operation. These are the hours listed as of December 4<sup>th</sup> 2009. Some License Centers have evening and Saturday hours. Call first to be sure of evening and Saturday hours.

#### **Anoka County [www.co.anoka.mn.us](http://www.co.anoka.mn.us)**

##### **Anoka License Center**

6111 Highway 10 #500

Ramsey, 55303

[Anoka@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:Anoka@co.anoka.mn.us)

763-576-5768

M-F 8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Sat. 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

##### **Blaine License Center**

10995 Club West Pkwy, Suite 700

Blaine, 55449

[Blaine@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:Blaine@co.anoka.mn.us)

763-767-3888

M-F 8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Sat. 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Sat. 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

##### **Columbia Heights License Center**

3982 Central Avenue NE

Columbia Heights, 55421

[ColumbiaHeights@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:ColumbiaHeights@co.anoka.mn.us)

763-789-7202

M-F 8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Sat. 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

##### **Coon Rapids License Center**

455 99<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, Suite 100

[Tom@tgarmstrong.com](mailto:Tom@tgarmstrong.com)

or

[tgarmstrong@comcast.net](mailto:tgarmstrong@comcast.net)

Home 651-773-4092 / Fax 651-773-4850 / [www.tgarmstrong.com](http://www.tgarmstrong.com)

763-785-5999

M-F 8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Coon Rapids, 55433

[CoonRapids@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:CoonRapids@co.anoka.mn.us)

Sat. 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Courthouse**

Anoka Government Center  
325 East Main St. W120  
Anoka, 55303-5036

763-323-5201

M-F 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Ham Lake License Center**

17565 Central Ave. NE #330  
Ham Lake, 55304

[HamLake@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:HamLake@co.anoka.mn.us)

763-413-9717

M-F 8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Sat. 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Carver County - [www.co.carver.mn.us](http://www.co.carver.mn.us)**

Courthouse – Taxpayer Services  
600 East Fourth Street  
Chaska, 55318

952-361-1930

MWF 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

T&Th 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Chisago County - [www.co.chisago.mn.us](http://www.co.chisago.mn.us)**

Courthouse - Recorder - Rm 277  
313 North Main Street, Center City

651-213-8580

**Dakota County-[www.co.dakota.mn.us](http://www.co.dakota.mn.us)**

**Hastings Government Center**

1590 Highway 55 West  
Hastings, 55033-2343

651-438-4313

M-F 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

No Sat.

**Northern Service Center**

One Mendota Road West  
West St. Paul, 55118

651-554-6600

MTThF 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Wed. 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

**Western Service Center**

County Road 42 & Galaxie

952-891-7570

MWF 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

[Tom@tgarmstrong.com](mailto:Tom@tgarmstrong.com) or [tgarmstrong@comcast.net](mailto:tgarmstrong@comcast.net)  
Home 651-773-4092 / Fax 651-773-4850 / [www.tgarmstrong.com](http://www.tgarmstrong.com)

14955 Galaxie Avenue  
Apple Valley, 55124

TTh 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

**Hennepin County – [www.co.hennepin.mn.us](http://www.co.hennepin.mn.us)**

Recording for all locations - 612-348-8240

**Brookdale Service Center**

6125 Shingle Creek Parkway  
Brooklyn Center, 55430

[License.BD@co.hennepin.mn.us](mailto:License.BD@co.hennepin.mn.us)

M-F 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sat. 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Eden Prairie Service Center**

479 Prairie Center Drive  
Eden Prairie, 55344

[License.EP@co.hennepin.mn.us](mailto:License.EP@co.hennepin.mn.us)

M 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.

T-TH 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

F 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Saturday Closed

**Government Service Center**

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor West Service Level – A Level  
300 So. 6th Street  
Minneapolis, 55487

[License.GC@co.hennepin.mn.us](mailto:License.GC@co.hennepin.mn.us)

M-F 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday Closed

**Maple Grove Service Center**

9325 Upland Lane North  
Maple Grove, 55369

[License.MG@co.hennepin.mn.us](mailto:License.MG@co.hennepin.mn.us)

M 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.

T-TH 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

F 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Saturday Closed

**Midtown Exchange Service Center**

Greenway Level – Lower Level  
2929 Chicago Avenue South  
Minneapolis, 55407

[License.MT@co.hennepin.mn.us](mailto:License.MT@co.hennepin.mn.us)

M-F 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday Closed

**Ridgedale Service Center**

12601 Ridgedale Drive

M-F 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

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Home 651-773-4092 / Fax 651-773-4850 / [www.tgarmstrong.com](http://www.tgarmstrong.com)

Minnetonka, 55343

Sat. 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

[License.RD@co.hennepin.mn.us](mailto:License.RD@co.hennepin.mn.us)

**Southdale Service Center**

7009 York Avenue South

M-F 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Edina, 55435

Sat. 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

[License.SD@co.hennepin.mn.us](mailto:License.SD@co.hennepin.mn.us)

**Isanti County – [www.co.isanti.mn.us](http://www.co.isanti.mn.us)**

Courthouse - Recorder's Office

763-689-1191

555 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.W.

M-F Call for hours

Cambridge, 55008

**Ramsey County - [www.co.ramsey.mn.us](http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us)**

10th & Cedar

651-266-1333

555 Cedar Street

M-F Call for hours

St. Paul, 55101

**Scott County – [www.co.scott.mn.us](http://www.co.scott.mn.us)**

Courthouse Customer Service Center

952-496-8150

200 West Fourth Avenue

MTh 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Shakopee, 55379

TWF 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Sherburne County - [www.co.sherburne.mn.us](http://www.co.sherburne.mn.us)**

Courthouse - Recorder's Office

763-241-2915

13880 Highway 10

M-F 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Elk River, 55330-4601

[recorder@co.sherburne.mn.us](mailto:recorder@co.sherburne.mn.us)

**Washington County - [www.co.washington.mn.us](http://www.co.washington.mn.us)**

[Tom@tgarmstrong.com](mailto:Tom@tgarmstrong.com)

or

[tgarmstrong@comcast.net](mailto:tgarmstrong@comcast.net)

Home 651-773-4092 / Fax 651-773-4850 / [www.tgarmstrong.com](http://www.tgarmstrong.com)

**Cottage Grove Service Center**

13000 Ravine Parkway South  
Cottage Grove. 55016

651-430-4075

M-F 8 p.m. – 5 p.m.

**Forest Lake Service Center**

19955 Forest Road North  
Forest Lake, 55025

651-275-7333

M&W 8 p.m. – 6 p.m.

TThF 8 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Sat. 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

**Stillwater License Center**

Valley Ridge Mall  
1520 West Frontage Road  
Stillwater, 55082

651-275-7000

M&W 8 p.m. – 6 p.m.

TThF 8 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Sat. 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

**Woodbury License Center**

2150 Radio Drive  
Woodbury, 55125

651-275-8600

M&W 8 p.m. – 6 p.m.

TThF 8 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Sat. 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

**Wright County - [www.co.wright.mn.us](http://www.co.wright.mn.us)**

Courthouse, Room 160  
10 Second Street NW  
Buffalo, 55313

763-682-7509

M-F Call for hours

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