

Marriage License Requirements

FEE: \$81.00* MUST BE IN CASH, DEBIT OR CREDIT CARD (MASTER CARD, VISA OR DISCOVER CARD ONLY)

**Couples attending a qualifying premarital education class will have the \$60 state marriage license fee waived, as well as the 72-hour waiting period.*

Visit <http://twogetherintexas.com> for more information.

***HIV/AIDS information for persons applying for a marriage license in Texas can be found at: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/hivtest/>. If you do not have internet access, call 512-533-3000 to request a free print copy of this information.*

***Información sobre el VIH/SIDA para las personas que solicitan una licencia de matrimonio en Texas se puede encontrar en <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/hivtestesp/>. Si usted no tiene acceso a Internet, llame al 512-533-3000 para solicitar una copia gratuita de esta información.*

****Couples who applied for a marriage license may obtain a premarital handbook:*

Visit <https://www.oag.state.tx.us/cs/index.shtml>

If they do not have internet access, they may obtain a paper copy of the handbook at:

Materials Request/Reprographics

Office of the Attorney General

P.O. Box 12548

Austin, TX 78711-2548

Phone: (512) 936-1737 Fax: (512) 469-3157

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| Overview | Marriage records in Galveston County exists from 1838 to present |
| Age Requirements | Must be 18 Years or Older - No parental consent required. Ages 16 to 17 - Must have consent of a parent, managing conservator or legal guardian or judicial approval. Under 16 - Must provide a court order granted under Sec. 2.103 The County Clerk can provide a parental consent form. For additional information call (409-766-2207). |
| Application Requirements | Both Parties must appear together to apply for a marriage license. Exception: Portion of the application process may be completed by filing an Absentee Affidavit if one party is unable to appear in person. Call (409-766-2207). |
| Identification Requirements | Ages 18 Years or Older – Acceptable form of Identification: Original or Certified Copy of Birth Certificate, Valid Driver License, Military ID, Valid ID issued by the Department of Public Safety, Valid Passport, Any valid ID issued by the state of Texas, etc. <i>(Acceptability of the document presented will be determined at the county level. No Plain copies or Expired Documents will be approved.)</i> Ages 15 to 17 - A certified copy of applicant’s birth certificate. The parent, managing conservator or legal guardian must also present identification and document confirming proof of custody or guardianship or conservatorship. Social Security Number (SSN) required for both applicants. |
| License | License must be obtained 72 hours prior to wedding. Only a County Court at Law Judge or District Judge can waive this requirement. An applicant who is on active military duty is exempt from the 72 hour waiting period(Waiver Form available only at Main County Clerk Office-Galveston. If waiver is needed notify Deputy issuing license when application is being processed.) License is valid up to 90 days after date of issuance. License is valid in any county in Texas. |

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| Blood Test | No Blood Test is required in Texas |
| Ceremony | <p>Marriages in Texas may be performed by:</p> <p>A licensed or ordained Christian minister or priest</p> <p>A Jewish rabbi</p> <p>A person who is an officer of a religious organization and who is authorized by the organization to conduct a marriage ceremony.</p> <p>A Justice of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, & of the Peace, Judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals, County, District, Probate Courts, County courts at law, Courts of domestic relations, of the Juvenile courts, Municipal court, or judge or magistrate of a federal court of this state; retired Justice or Judge of those courts, retired Justice of the Peace, retired Judge of municipal court, or retired Judge or Magistrate of federal court of this state who are fully vested in the Federal Employees Retirement System under 28 U.S.C. Section 371 or 377.</p> |

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| Prohibited Marriages | <p>Applicants must have been divorced for 30 days (unless waived).</p> <p>The other applicant is not related as:</p> <p>a. An ancestor or descendant, by blood or adoption</p> <p>b. A brother or sister, of the whole or half blood or by adoption</p> <p>c. A parent's brother or sister, of the whole or half blood or by adoption</p> <p>d. A son or daughter of a brother or sister, of the whole or half blood or by adoption</p> <p>e. A current or former stepchild or stepparent; or</p> <p>f. A son or daughter of a parent's brother or sister, of the whole or half blood or by adoption</p> |
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| Informal Marriage License | Couples living together as husband and wife may wish to make a matter of record their marriage without formality. Call for additional information on a Declaration of Informal Marriage at 409-766-2207. |
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*** The original license must be returned to the County Clerk in the county that it was purchased. After final recording of the original marriage certificate, it will be mailed to the applicants at address given. A certified copy can be obtained in person or by mail at any time.

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*** Authenticating a marriage document may be prepared for a marriage certified by the County Clerk. Send the properly certified document with \$15.00 fee and a self addressed stamped envelope directly to:

Secretary of State
Statutory Documents Section
P.O. Box 12887
Austin, Texas 78711

Or

1019 Brazos Street
Austin, Texas 78701

For Further information contact: Texas Dept. of State Health Services
Phone: (888) 963-7111 Web Site: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us>

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[Return to Galveston County Marriage License Information](#)

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