

Florida Marriage Officiant Guide

Marriage Officiants: All regularly-ordained ministers of the gospel in communion with some church, including non-resident clergy, may serve as a Marriage Officiant anywhere in Florida. Ministers must be ordained by a church or religious organization, but are not required to register with any agency in the state. You must, however, present your credentials to any legal authority and/or the bridal couple upon their request.

The Officiant must complete the certificate of marriage on the marriage license and return it to the office from which it was issued following the ceremony.

MARRIAGE LICENSE INFORMATION

Much of the information below is state law in Florida; however, this information can vary by location, and is subject to change. We recommend contacting your county clerk's office before applying for your marriage license.

ID Requirement: The parties to the marriage must appear in person, together, and each must present a picture ID (such as a driver's license) and Social Security card, a valid passport number, or I-94 card.

Residency Requirement: The parties to the marriage do not have to reside in Florida.

Application Requirement: Both parties to the marriage must appear in person at the time of applying.

Proxy Marriages: Not permitted in Florida.

Fee: \$93.50 (cash only) in most counties. Couples that have completed a state-sanctioned marriage preparation course within the past twelve months are entitled to a discounted fee of \$61 (must bring certificate of completion).



Florida Premarital Preparation Program: A course provided by a qualified instructor registered with the Clerk of the Circuit Court, which may run four hours or more, and may include instruction regarding conflict management, communication skills, financial responsibilities, children, and parenting responsibilities, based on actual case data compiled from information reported by married couples who seek counseling.

The course may be provided by personal instruction, videotape instruction, instruction via other electronic media, or a combination of these methods. Complete information is available in any Clerk's office that issues marriage licenses.

Waiting Period: No waiting period for Florida residents who have both completed a state-sanctioned marriage preparation course within the last twelve months.

There is a three-day waiting period for Florida residents who have not taken the course. The waiting period does not apply to non-Florida residents.

If Divorced: If previously married, the date of divorce or date of spouse's death must be supplied. If the divorce or spouse's death occurred within the past 30 days, a certified copy of the divorce decree or death certificate is required.

Other Tests: No blood test requirement.

Under 18: If an individual is under 18 years of age, but older than 16 years of age, a marriage license can be obtained with parental consent. If a parent has sole custody or the other parent is dead, the permission of one parent is sufficient. If a person is under the age of 16, the marriage license has to be issued by a county judge, with or without parental permission.

If a minor's parents are both deceased and there is not an appointed guardian, he/she may apply for a marriage license. A minor who has been previously married may also apply for a license.

A minor who swears that they have a child or are expecting a baby can apply for a license if the pregnancy has been verified by a written statement from a licensed physician. A county court judge may at his/her discretion issue (or not issue) a license for them to marry.

Same-Gender Marriages: Permitted in Florida (as of 6 January 2015).

Valid: A Florida marriage license is valid for 60 days. The license can only be used within the State of Florida.

For additional information, please visit FirstNationMinistry.org

The above information is believed to be correct, but does not purport to be legal advice, is not all-inclusive and shall be used only as a guide. Under the terms specified in your ordination, you are solely responsible for becoming familiar with and complying to all current laws and regulations in effect within the jurisdiction in which you will conduct ceremonies.

Florida Statute

Title XLIII, Chapter 741

(Domestic Relations; Marriage)

741.07 Persons authorized to solemnize matrimony. —

(1) All regularly ordained ministers of the gospel or elders in communion with some church, or other ordained clergy, and all judicial officers, including retired judicial officers, clerks of the circuit courts, and notaries public of this state may solemnize the rights of matrimonial contract, under the regulations prescribed by law. Nothing in this section shall make invalid a marriage which was solemnized by any member of the clergy, or as otherwise provided by law prior to July 1, 1978.

(2) Any marriage which may be had and solemnized among the people called "Quakers," or "Friends," in the manner and form used or practiced in their societies, according to their rites and ceremonies, shall be good and valid in law; and wherever the words "minister" and "elder" are used in this chapter, they shall be held to include all of the persons connected with the Society of Friends, or Quakers, who perform or have charge of the marriage ceremony according to their rites and ceremonies.

History. — s. 1, Nov. 2, 1829; s. 2, ch. 1127, 1861; RS 2056; GS 2575; RGS 3934; CGL 5853; s. 1, ch. 28104, 1953; s. 1, ch. 74-372; s. 1, ch. 78-15; s. 34, ch. 95-401.

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