

# Mississippi Marriage Officiant Guide

**Officiants:** Any ordained minister of the gospel who is in good standing with his or her church may perform marriages. Ministers must send a certificate of marriage to the clerk who issued the marriage license within three months after the marriage ceremony is performed.

## MARRIAGE LICENSE INFORMATION

*Much of the information below is state law in Mississippi; however, this information can vary from county to county. We recommend contacting your county clerk's office before applying for your marriage license.*

**ID Requirement:** Picture ID, such as a driver's license or valid passport. Having your Social Security card, birth certificate, etc., may be helpful. *Note that some counties require you to bring two witnesses with you when you apply for your marriage license!*

**Residency Requirement:** You do not have to be a resident of Mississippi.

**Previous Marriages:** You must know the date and how the last marriage ended. If it was within the last six months, you must submit proof of the divorce to the issuing clerk's office.

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

**Proxy Marriages:** Not permitted. Both parties must be present for the marriage ceremony.

**Waiting Period:** No waiting period following issuance of the marriage license.

**Fees:** \$21 to \$23, depending on county — cash only.

**Blood Tests:** Blood test within 30 days showing that both applicants are free from syphilis. The results can be from any laboratory (in state or out of state) that is authorized to do pre-marital syphilis testing and is registered with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

**Under Age 21:** Parental consent is needed if under 21 years of age. If parents or guardians do not give consent at time of application, they will be notified via certified mail. The marriage application will be held for three (3) days.

Marriage licenses cannot be issued to males under age 17, or females under 15 years of age. If the clerk receives a signed authorization from the parents, this minimum age requirement can be waived.

**Common Law Marriage:** Not permitted.

**Cousin Marriages:** Not permitted.

**Same-Gender Marriages:** Permitted following U.S. Supreme Court ruling of 26 June 2015.

**Valid:** A Mississippi marriage license is valid for 30 days. The marriage license can only be used (solemnized) within the State of Mississippi.



***For additional information, please visit [www.FirstNationMinistry.org](http://www.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.*