

# South Carolina Marriage Officiant Guide

**Marriage Officiants:** Only ministers of the Gospel, Jewish rabbis, officers authorized to administer oaths in this State, and/or the chief or spiritual leader of a Native American Indian entity recognized by the South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs, as well as ordained non-resident ministers, may perform marriage ceremonies anywhere in South Carolina.

The Officiant must complete the marriage license and give one copy to the bridal couple; the other two copies must be returned to the county judge of probate or county clerk's office that issued it *within 15 days* following the marriage ceremony.

## *MARRIAGE LICENSE INFORMATION*

*Much of the information below is state law; however, this information can vary from county to county, and is subject to change. We recommend contacting your County Probate Court Office before applying for your marriage license.*

**Marriage License ID Requirement:** Driver's license and Social Security number.

**Residency Requirement:** The parties to the marriage do not have to reside in South Carolina.

**If previously married:** No proof of divorce is required.

**Application Requirement:** Both parties to a marriage should appear in person at the office of a South Carolina County Probate Judge and file a written application.

This application asks for the full name, Social Security number, age, and place of residence of both parties to the marriage. This is a sworn statement that must be signed by both parties to the marriage, and must be notarized in the office of the Probate Judge.



**Proxy Marriages:** Not permitted. Both parties must be present.

**Fees:** Range from \$25 to \$65, depending on the county. In some counties, payment must be made in cash only.

**Waiting Period:** There is a 24-hour waiting period after the application is filed before the license can be picked up and the marriage can take place.

*If you want to get married on a weekend, make sure you apply for a marriage license by Thursday so you can pick up your license by Friday.*

**Blood Tests:** No blood test or physical exam is required.

**Under 18:** If you are under the age of 18, parental consent can be granted for males who are at least 16 years old and for females who are at least 14 years old.

All minor applicants must file an original birth certificate or a certified copy of their birth certificate, which becomes a part of their permanent application record.

The parent or legal guardian of a minor applicant must appear at the same time as the minor to present identification and sign a form consenting to the marriage.

If you are 18 years old or older, you do not need parental consent, but you must provide proof of your age (or simply identification if you're over age 25) by presenting one of the following:

- Valid driver's license;
- Original birth certificate or a certified copy of your birth certificate;
- Valid South Carolina identification card issued by the South Carolina Department of Public Safety;
- Current military identification card; or
- Current passport.

**Common Law Marriage:** Not permitted.

**Cousin Marriage:** Marriages between first cousins are permitted.

**Same-Gender Marriage:** Permitted since November 20, 2014.

**Valid:** There is no expiration date for a South Carolina marriage license. The marriage license can only be used within the State of South Carolina.

*For additional information, please visit  
***FirstNationMinistry.org/us/south-carolina****

*The above information is believed to be current and 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.*