Getting Married in Cook County

Your guide to obtaining a marriage application, marriage license and domestic partnership.

Cook County Vital Records
Suburban Offices

Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday

North suburbs/Skokie
5600 W. Old Orchard Road, Room 149
Skokie, IL 60077
(847) 470-7233

Northwest suburbs/Rolling Meadows
2121 Euclid Ave., Room 238
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008
(847) 818-2850

West suburbs/Maywood
1311 Maybrook Square, Room 109
Maywood, IL 60153
(708) 865-6010

South suburbs/Markham
16501 S. Kedzie, Room 238
Markham, IL 60426
(708) 210-4150

Southwest suburbs/Bridgeview
10220 S. 76th Ave., Room 238
Bridgeview, IL 60455
(708) 974-6150

Requesting a Marriage Certificate

After the ceremony you may obtain a certified legal copy of your marriage certificate.

To obtain a marriage certificate, you must:

- Fill out and sign a marriage certificate request form.
- Present Valid ID
- Pay a $15 fee (additional certified copies are $4 each).
- Submit the form to the Clerk’s office by using one of the following methods:
  - Mail in your request to:
    Cook County Vital Records
    P.O. Box 642570
    Chicago, IL 60664-2570
  - Visit one of the Clerk’s six sites (see back cover).
  - Go to a local Currency Exchange. There’s a $5 surcharge for service. (Call 847.759.8905 for locations or visit www.mycurrencyexchange.com).
  - Contact Vital Check to charge your order to any major credit card for an additional fee. (Call 866.252.8974 or visit www.vitalcheck.com).

Include the following items:

Completed Marriage Certificate Request Form*, Check or Money order payable to the Cook County Clerk, self-addressed stamped envelope.

*Forms available at Clerk’s sites or online at www.cookcounty clerk.com.
What You Should Know

Before getting married in Chicago or suburban Cook County, couples must obtain a marriage license from the Cook County Clerk’s Office.

Individuals who reside out of state may not apply for a marriage license in Illinois if such marriage or union would not be legal in their home state. Both individuals must apply in person.

Same-sex couples may obtain a Domestic Partnership Certificate, valid only in Cook County.

Applying For A Marriage License

FEE: $40

Eligibility

According to Illinois law, both the bride and groom must be 18 years of age or older, be of the opposite sex and not be blood relatives or siblings by marriage.

Applying

Couples must appear in person together at one of the Cook County Vital Records offices, fill out and sign a marriage license application and present valid ID with proof of age.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>One form of ID if submitting one of the following:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• State driver’s license</td>
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<tr>
<td>• State identification</td>
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<tr>
<td>• U.S. passport</td>
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<tr>
<td>• U.S. Armed Forces identification card</td>
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<tr>
<th>Two of these forms of ID:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Certified copy of Birth Certificate (English translations required for foreign certificates)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• U.S. naturalization certificate</td>
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<tr>
<td>• U.S. resident alien card</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Life insurance policy (at least 1 year old)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Foreign passport, U.S. issued consulate identification card, Baptismal record (date of birth must appear)</td>
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Exceptions

Illinois law provides exceptions: first cousins older than 50 years of age may marry; and 16 and 17 year olds may obtain a marriage license with:

1. Consent of both parents
2. Certified copies of their birth certificates
3. Second form of identification showing their birthdates

Timelines and restrictions

Marriage licenses are issued while you wait and are effective the day after they are issued. Licenses are valid for 60 days but effective only in Chicago and suburban Cook County.

Please Note: If your divorce was finalized within the past six months, you will be required to show a certified copy of your divorce decree.

After the marriage ceremony occurs

The officiant performing the ceremony must complete the bottom portion of the marriage license deliver it to the Cook County Vital Records office or mail no later than ten days from ceremony to:

Cook County Vital Records
P.O. Box 642570
Chicago, IL 60664-2570

Domestic Partnership

FEE: $30

Cook County's Domestic Partnership Registry enables same-sex couples living in Chicago and suburban Cook County to formally record their relationships.

To apply for the Domestic Partnership Registry, you and your partner must appear together at the Cook County Marriage Bureau downtown office and present valid photo identification with proof of age. You will complete a Domestic Partnership Affidavit form provided by the Marriage Bureau office. A couple must maintain the same residence in order to obtain a Domestic Partnership.