

# Marriage License Requirements For All 6 New England States

Weddings are romantic, full of hope and dreams come true. But, they are also legal proceedings with rules and regulations. Here is a summary of the marriage license requirements for all 6 New England States. Please remember that these laws can change, so it is always important to call your city or town's offices for confirmation for the current requirements.

## CONNECTICUT

**Waiting Period:** None. Some towns may require you to pick the license up the next day.

**Fees:** Approximately \$30-\$35. Fee may vary from county to county. Some towns may not accept credit/debit cards, so usually it is best to bring cash.

**Who Can Marry:** Bride and Groom must be 18 years of age, however, there are the following exceptions: The person is under 18 years of age, and such person has received written consent to marry from a parent, guardian, or in the absence of such parent or guardian, a probate court judge; or the person is under 16 years of age, and such person has received written consent to marry from a probate court judge. As of November 12, 2008, same-sex marriages are legal in Connecticut.

**Medical Exam/Blood Test:** There is no longer a blood test requirement to obtain a marriage license in Connecticut.

**How to Apply:** Bride and Groom must appear in person at the local City/Town Hall, office of Vital Records (usually town/clerk's office). You will need to complete the marriage license application, provide identification and make a sworn statement that the information provided is true. If there has been a previous marriage, you will need to show your divorce decree, or bring information regarding date, county and state of death of previous spouse. If your name has changed, you need to bring a certified copy of your divorce decree.

**Where/When is License Valid:** A marriage license in Connecticut is valid for 65 days and is only valid in Connecticut.

## MAINE

**Waiting Period:** There is no longer a waiting period from the time your marriage license is issued until your wedding can take place.

**Fees:** \$10.00 per person for a total of \$20.00. This charge does not include the cost of a certified copy of the marriage certificate after the marriage is performed.

**Who Can Marry:** Written parental consent is required for an applicant under 18. Written parental consent and written consent of a judge are required for an applicant under 16.

**Medical Exam/Blood Test:** There is no longer a blood test requirement.

**How to Apply:** Bride and Groom must apply in person together and bring identification and proof of age. If this is not the first marriage for one of you, bring a certified copy (raised seal) of the divorce form or death certificate of the last spouse.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

**Waiting Period:** There is no waiting period.

**Fees:** The fee to apply for a marriage license is \$50.00. Payment can be made with cash, bank check, or a money order.

**How to Apply:** Both individuals must appear together in their local City Clerk's office to apply for a marriage license. However, if either party (or both) is a member of the armed forces, he or she can supply an affidavit of marriage intentions, prepared by the armed forces legal representative, to the City Clerk, if he or she cannot appear in person. The couple must bring identification, showing age and name, such as a driver's license, non-driver's I.D. or passport. If one party has been married previously, he or she must provide a divorce decree, annulment paper, dissolution or death certificate. City Clerks ask couples to set aside 30-45 minutes to fill out all of the paperwork.

**Where/When is License Valid:** The license is valid in any New Hampshire city or town, regardless of where the couple applies.

## MASSACHUSETTS

**Waiting Period:** 3 Days. If you want to waive the 3-day waiting period, you must bring an approved Court Petition for a Marriage Without Delay showing a judge's permission to waive the waiting period. The Essex County Probate Court is one court that issues these petitions.

**Who Can Marry:** For each applicant under 18 years old, a Court Marriage of Minor Order must be obtained from the probate court or district court where the minor resides. As of May 17, 2004, same-sex couples can be married in Massachusetts.

**Medical Exam/Blood Test:** There is no longer a requirement for a medical exam or blood work.

**How to Apply:** The bride and groom must appear together to get the license and bring a photo ID for each applicant, the Social Security number for each applicant. If either applicant has been married before, Proof of Dissolution may be required.

**Where/When is License Valid:** A marriage license is valid throughout Massachusetts for up to 60 days from the date of application.

## RHODE ISLAND

**How to Apply:** Bride and Groom must apply together in person and present ID and birth certificate.

**Where/When is License Valid:** The license is valid for three months from the date it was issued. The ceremony must take place where the license is valid.

## VERMONT

**Waiting Period:** There is no waiting period in Vermont.

**Fees:** The license fee is \$45 and is only valid for 60 days.

**Medical Exam/Blood Test:** No blood test or medical exam is required.

**How to Apply:** If both parties are Vermont residents, you may go to the town clerk in either of your towns of residence. If just one of you resides in a Vermont town, you must buy the license in that town. If neither party is a Vermont resident, you may get the license from any town/city clerk in the state. Vermont law requires that at least one of you sign the license in the presence of the City/Town Clerk, certifying that all the information you provided is correct. However, most clerks prefer to see both of you in person before issuing your license.