

What Do I Need to Apply for a Marriage License?

A marriage license will be received the same day it is applied for, but the wedding cannot be held in New York for at least 24 hours after filing for a marriage license unless a judicial waiver is obtained. Certain documentation is also required including proof of age and identity, a photo ID, and a \$40 fee.

1. Each person must have at least **one** of the following documents as proof of age and identity when applying for a marriage license; a **Social Security Number** will also need to be provided if you have one.
 - Birth Certificate
 - Baptismal record
 - Naturalization record
 - Census record
 - If you are a refugee and do not have a birth certificate, you must get a signed and sealed record of your name, birth date, birth place, and parents' names from your sponsoring agency.

If the document is in a foreign language, you must provide a *certified* translation into English along with the original. A certified translation will be signed, dated, and contain a statement that attests the accuracy of the translation.

2. In addition to the birth-related document, each person **must** provide an accepted form of photo ID. New York accepts the following types of documents:
 - Driver's license
 - Passport
 - Employment picture ID
 - Immigration record
3. If either applicant was previously married, information must be furnished about those marriages on the application including whether the former spouse is living and whether the marriage ended by divorce, annulment, or death.
 - If divorced, the previous spouse's full legal name must be disclosed; the date that the divorce decree was finalized; and the city, state, and country that issued the divorce.
 - A certified copy of the divorce decree or other dissolution document must be provided.
4. The application for a marriage license requires the disclosure of parents' birth names and country of birth.
5. If the legal surname will be changed after marriage, the easiest way is to indicate it on the marriage license application. Once the marriage has been performed, the name provided on the license application becomes the legal surname.
 - Surnames do not automatically change after marriage; the legal surname must be chosen and one or both parties may choose to change their surnames.
 - One does not have to change their surname to be legally married.
 - In the state of New York, one must choose from the following options for the surname change:
 - one spouse's surname for both partners
 - a surname that combines elements of both spouses' surnames
 - both spouses' surnames, separated by hyphen