

Before you get married...

You need to check that the person performing your marriage ceremony is an authorized official. It is important to ensure that your marriage is performed properly and legally.



Who can perform a legal marriage in Ontario



- A **religious marriage ceremony** may be performed by a person who is registered under the Marriage Act to perform religious marriages in Ontario (religious official).
- A **civil marriage ceremony** may be performed by a judge, a justice of the peace, or a municipal clerk and/or their delegate.

Only persons noted above are authorized to perform a marriage in Ontario.



Check before you get married

Find out if a person performing your marriage is an authorized official.

Religious Official:

- Check online at ServiceOntario.ca/GettingMarried to access lists of religious officials who are registered to perform marriages. Call ServiceOntario at 1-800-461-2156 (areas outside Toronto) or 416-325-8305.

Ontario Municipal Clerk/Delegate:

- Contact your local city hall, town hall or municipal office to determine whether they provide civil marriage services and if so, who can perform a marriage.

Judge/Justice of the Peace:

- Judge: must be an Ontario provincial judge or a judge of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice.
- Justice of the Peace: must be a justice of the peace under Ontario's Justices of the Peace Act.

Visit ServiceOntario.ca/GettingMarried for more information.



Identification

Two pieces of identification are required for each person. See listing of acceptable identification. All documents must be original; photocopies will not be accepted.

The legal name is the one registered at birth or the one changed legally through adoption, court order/Change of Name Certificate or marriage.

The identification accepted is:

- Birth Certificate
- Valid Passport
- Valid Driver's licence
- Canadian citizenship card
- Canadian Government refugee travel document
- Conditional release identification card
- United States green card
- Native status card
- Record of immigration landing
- Permanent Residency Card
- Citizenship card from any country
- Identity card from any country
- Ontario photo card

Ontario Health Cards and Social Insurance Number (SIN) Cards are not acceptable forms of identification to obtain a marriage licence.

Please note: It is important that you bring identification that states your name in full. The marriage licence will only state what is written on your identification.



APPLICANT		LAST NAME	JOINT APPLICANT	
		FIRST AND MIDDLE NAMES		
<input type="checkbox"/> NEVER MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> WIDOWED <input type="checkbox"/> DIVORCED		MARITAL STATUS	<input type="checkbox"/> NEVER MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> WIDOWED <input type="checkbox"/> DIVORCED	
COURT FILE NUMBER		IF DIVORCED IN CANADA, please provide the court file number	COURT FILE NUMBER	
CITY DIVORCE GRANTED IN		RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION	CITY DIVORCE GRANTED IN	
AGE	DATE OF BIRTH	AGE AND DATE OF BIRTH	AGE	DATE OF BIRTH
DATE	DAY		DATE	DAY
MONTH	YEAR		MONTH	YEAR
PROVINCE (IF OUTSIDE CANADA, COUNTRY)		PLACE OF BIRTH	PROVINCE (IF OUTSIDE CANADA, COUNTRY)	
LAST NAME		FATHER'S NAME	LAST NAME	
FIRST (NAMES)		(Last, First)	FIRST (NAMES)	
LAST NAME		MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME	LAST NAME	
FIRST (NAMES)		(Last name before marriage, First)	FIRST (NAMES)	
PROVINCE (IF OUTSIDE CANADA, COUNTRY)		FATHER'S PLACE OF BIRTH	PROVINCE (IF OUTSIDE CANADA, COUNTRY)	
PROVINCE (IF OUTSIDE CANADA, COUNTRY)		MOTHER'S PLACE OF BIRTH	PROVINCE (IF OUTSIDE CANADA, COUNTRY)	
STREET NAME AND NUMBER		PRESENT RESIDENCE OR POSTAL ADDRESS	STREET NAME AND NUMBER	
APT			APT	
CITY OR TOWN	PROVINCE		CITY OR TOWN	PROVINCE
POSTAL CODE		PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE	POSTAL CODE	
TELEPHONE NUMBER			TELEPHONE NUMBER	
STREET NAME AND NUMBER			STREET NAME AND NUMBER	
APT		APT		
CITY OR TOWN		CITY OR TOWN		
PROVINCE		PROVINCE		
POSTAL CODE		POSTAL CODE		
TELEPHONE NUMBER		TELEPHONE NUMBER		
INTENDED PLACE OF MARRIAGE		CITY, TOWN, VILLAGE	COUNTY OR DISTRICT	INTENDED DATE OF MARRIAGE
I DECLARE THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS CORRECT: SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT		I DECLARE THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS CORRECT: SIGNATURE OF JOINT APPLICANT		
DATE		DATE		

Personal information contained on this form is collected under the authority of the *Marriage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. M. 3 and will be used to determine whether to issue the marriage licence, to register and record the marriage, provide certified copies, extracts, certificates, search notices, photocopies and for statistical, research, medical, law enforcement, adoption and adoption disclosure purposes. Questions about this collection should be directed to:

Deputy Registrar General

P.O. Box 4600 189 Red River Road Thunder Bay ON P7B 6L8

1-800-461-2156 or (416) 325-8305

FRANCAIS AU VERSO

Who may marry

Any person who is at least 18 years of age may marry. No person under 16 years of age may marry. Any person who is 16 or 17 years of age (other than a widow, widower or divorced person) may marry with the written consent of his/her legal guardian. A special consent form is available for this purpose from your local Municipal Office.

If any person whose consent is required is unavailable or refuses to consent, an application may be made to a judge to dispense with consent.

A person whose previous marriage has been dissolved or annulled will require:

- a) If the marriage was dissolved or annulled in Canada, the original or court-certified copy of the final decree, judgement or certificate of divorce dissolving or annulling the marriage; or
- b) If the marriage was dissolved or annulled outside of Canada, the authorization of the Minister of Consumer and Business Services. This requirement is explained in more detail below; or
- c) Where the earlier marriage of one of the parties was terminated by the **presumed** death of a spouse, a court order declaring the presumed death of the spouse must be obtained. An issuer of Marriage Licences can provide more information upon request.

How one marries

A marriage may be solemnized under the authority of a licence or the publication of banns.

1) Marriage Licence

A licence to marry may be obtained from the issuer of Marriage Licences at your local Municipal Clerk's Office. At least one party to the proposed marriage must apply in person. However, the application must be signed by both applicants.

The issuer may require proof of age of either party (if only one party is applying, he/she must bring proof of age of the other party). All minors must submit proof of age.

There are **no** requirements respecting residency, pre-marital blood tests or medical certificates.

A marriage licence is valid for use anywhere in Ontario. The licence expires 3 months after the date of issue.

There is a fee charged for a marriage licence.

2) Publication of banns

A marriage may be solemnized under the authority of the publication of banns where both parties to the proposed marriage worship regularly at their own church in Canada.

No one may marry under the authority of the publication of banns if there was a previous marriage (dissolved or annulled). Further information concerning marriage under the authority of the publication of banns may be obtained from a minister or a member of the clergy.

Who may perform a marriage ceremony

A marriage ceremony in Ontario may be performed by:

- a) a minister or member of the clergy registered under the **Marriage Act**
- b) a judge or justice of the peace.

Local court offices and municipal offices may provide the names of judges or justices of the peace who perform civil marriage ceremonies.

Civil Ceremony

A civil ceremony by a judge or justice of the peace may only be conducted under the authority of a marriage licence. The date and time of the ceremony must be arranged by the applicant. The applicants must also arrange for 2 witnesses to be present at the ceremony. There is an additional fee for civil ceremonies.

Authorization

An applicant whose former marriage was dissolved or annulled in a jurisdiction other than Canada must obtain authorization from the Minister of Consumer and Business Services before a marriage licence may be issued. To obtain this authorization, the applicants or a lawyer representing them, must submit the following to:

Office of the Registrar General
P.O. Box 4600
189 Red River Road
Thunder Bay ON P7B 6L8

- 1) A completed marriage licence application signed by both applicants.
- 2) A copy of the decree of divorce or annulment (certified by the proper court officer in the jurisdiction the divorce/annulment was granted) or sealed by the court. If the decree is in a language other than English or French, include a certified translation.
- 3) A statement of Sole Responsibility for each divorce signed by both applicants. Blank affidavits are available from the local issuer of Marriage Licences.
- 4) A legal opinion of an Ontario lawyer, addressed to both applicants, giving reasons why the divorce or annulment should be recognized in the Province of Ontario.

(Français au verso)