

## Questions and Answers to Help You Plan Your Vermont Wedding

### 1. Who can get married in Vermont?

Two people who are each at least 18 years old can obtain a civil marriage in Vermont. If you are at least 16, but under 18, you will need the written consent of a parent or guardian to obtain a marriage license. There is an affidavit on the back of the marriage license that can be used for this purpose. **By Vermont law, no one under the age of 16 may marry in Vermont.**

### 2. Are there any other marriage restrictions?

Anyone under guardianship cannot marry without the guardian's written consent. Vermont also does not allow marriage between most close relatives. You cannot marry a parent, grandparent, sister, brother, child, grandchild, niece, nephew, aunt or uncle. You cannot marry if either of you is currently married to someone else, or if either of you is joined in a civil union to someone else. The law requires that both parties be of sound mind.

### 3. Do we need a marriage license? Do we need blood tests?

You will need a license, but you do not need blood tests, and there is no waiting period.

### 4. Where do we get a marriage license and how much does it cost?

Licenses are issued by Vermont town clerks and cost \$60. 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. The license is valid for 60 days from the date it is issued. During that time an authorized person must perform your wedding ceremony — otherwise, the license is void.

### 5. What if we are not Vermont residents?

If neither party is a Vermont resident, you may get the license from any town clerk in the state.

### 6. What information must we provide to get a marriage license?

Besides basic information about yourselves (names, towns of residence, places and dates of birth), you must also provide your parents' names, including your mothers' birth (maiden) names, and their places of birth. Certified copies of your birth certificates can supply most of this information. You will also be asked to provide the number of previous marriages and civil unions, and how and when they ended. This information is confidential and does not become part of the marriage certificate. Vermont law requires that both parties sign the application certifying the accuracy of the information you provided. The town clerk will review the application to confirm that the information provided does not indicate that you are prohibited from marrying in Vermont and that both of you have signed the application. The town clerk will then issue a license if at least one of you has signed the license in front of the clerk.

### 7. What if either of us were married or in a civil union before?

If your husband, wife or civil union partner has died, you are free to marry. The clerk will ask the date your spouse or civil union partner died. If you are divorced, you may remarry after the date on which your

previous marriage or civil union was legally dissolved. If you are partners in an existing civil union, you are free to marry one another.

**8. Can a license be issued through the mail? Can we be married by proxy?**

No. A marriage license cannot be issued through the mail, and you cannot be married by proxy.

**9. Where can we get married?**

With a valid Vermont license, you can be married anywhere in Vermont, but only in Vermont.

**10. Who can marry us? Do we need witnesses?**

A Supreme Court justice, a superior court judge, a district judge, a judge of probate, an assistant judge, a justice of the peace or an ordained or licensed member of the clergy residing in Vermont can perform your wedding ceremony. A clergy person residing in an adjoining state or country can marry you if his or her church, temple, mosque, or other religious organization lies wholly or partly in Vermont. A clergy member residing in some other state or in Canada can marry you if he or she first obtains a special authorization from the probate court in the district where the marriage will take place. In addition, any person who is over the age of 18 may register with the Secretary of State to become a temporary officiant to a marriage. A person who has filled out the registration form and who has paid the registration fee of \$100 will receive a certificate authorizing the person to solemnize a specific Vermont marriage. The individual's authority to solemnize that marriage will expire at the same time as the corresponding license. For information on registering to be a temporary officiant visit [www.sec.state.vt.us](http://www.sec.state.vt.us) or call 802-828-2363. Vermont law does not require witnesses, but, if you are planning a religious ceremony, check to see if the religion's tenets require witnesses.

**11. What do we do with the license? What happens to it after the ceremony?**

By law, you both must sign the license and deliver the license to the person who will conduct your wedding ceremony before the marriage can be performed. After the ceremony, the person who performs the ceremony (officiant) will complete the sections concerning the date, place and officiant information, and sign your license. At that point, the license becomes a marriage certificate. The officiant must return the certificate to the town clerk's office where it was issued within 10 days after the wedding, so that your marriage can be officially registered. If the officiant has registered with the Secretary of State as a temporary officiant, a copy of the certificate of authorization issued by the Secretary of State should be attached to the signed certificate and returned to the clerk's office.

**12. How do we get a copy of our marriage certificate?**

At the time you buy your marriage license, you can arrange with the town clerk to mail you a certified copy of your certificate as soon as your marriage has been recorded. The cost is \$10 for the certified copy along with the \$60 for the license purchase (\$10 + \$60 = \$70). Or, two weeks or more after the ceremony, you can request, in person or in writing, additional copies from the town clerk's office where you bought your license for the same \$10 fee. Or, six or more weeks after your ceremony, you may request, in person or in writing, a certified copy from the Vermont Department of Health, Vital Records Office for \$10. In either case, you will receive a copy of the original certificate, embossed with the town or state seal, signed and dated by the appropriate official.

*Updated July 2019*

# Civil Marriage Checklist for Officiants

**Before the Marriage:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Are you legally authorized to perform a wedding in Vermont?
- **If you are a judge or justice**, you must have taken the oath of office, and you must perform the wedding during your term of office.
  - **If you have registered with the Secretary of State as a temporary officiant**, you will be authorized to officiate over the marriage identified on the registration form you submitted to the Secretary of State. Your authority to solemnize that marriage will expire at the same time as the corresponding license. For information on registering to be a temporary officiant visit [www.sec.state.vt.us](http://www.sec.state.vt.us) or call 802-828-2363.
  - **If you are a member of the clergy and reside in Vermont**, you must be ordained, licensed or authorized by your denomination.
  - **If you are a member of the clergy, but are not a Vermont resident**, you must have special authorization from the Vermont probate court in the county where you will be performing the ceremony, unless you reside in an adjoining state or country and your church, temple, mosque, or other religious organization lies entirely or partly in Vermont. Contact the probate court for details.

\_\_\_\_\_ Are these individuals eligible to enter into marriage per Vermont law?

\_\_\_\_\_ Have **both** individuals **signed and dated** 15a-16b of the *Vermont License and Certificate of Civil Marriage*, and will the marriage date fall within the "VALID FROM \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_" dates on the license?

**After the Marriage:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Fill out the OFFICIANT section (18a-g) using a typewriter or printing with **permanent black ink**.

<b>OFFICIANT</b>	
This license authorizes the marriage IN VERMONT ONLY of the above named parties by any person duly authorized to perform a marriage.	
18a. I CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE PERSONS WERE MARRIED ON (Month, Day, Year)	18b. WHERE MARRIED -- CITY OR TOWN
18c. SIGNATURE OF PERSON PERFORMING CEREMONY	18d. TITLE
18e. NAME (Type/Print)	18f. TELEPHONE NUMBER
18g. MAILING ADDRESS OF PERSON PERFORMING CEREMONY (Number and Street, City or Town, State, Zip Code)	

- 18a. Date of the marriage (write out the name of the month rather than the number (e.g. July 5, 2019, not 7/5/19))
- 18b. Name of the town/city where ceremony took place (specify City or Town if applicable)
- 18c. Your signature
- 18e. Your printed name
- 18d. Your title (e.g. Temporary Officiant, Minister, Priest, Rabbi, Justice of the Peace, etc.)
- 18f. Your best contact phone number
- 18g. Your mailing address

\_\_\_\_\_ If you are registered with the Secretary of State as a temporary officiant, a copy of the certificate of authorization should be attached to the signed license and returned to the issuing town clerk's office (see 17c.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Vermont law requires the completed certificate to be returned to the issuing town clerk **within 10 days** for filing. **Do not fold the certificate. Do not give the certificate to the couple.**

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The following page is  
the worksheet **ONLY**

Once completed please  
take to your Town  
Clerk's Office so they  
can issue you the  
marriage license.

**VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
APPLICATION FOR VERMONT LICENSE OF CIVIL MARRIAGE  
FEE FOR CIVIL MARRIAGE LICENSE \$60.00**

<b>APPLICANT A</b> <input type="checkbox"/> BRIDE <input type="checkbox"/> GROOM <input type="checkbox"/> SPOUSE    (check one)			
1a. LEGAL NAME (First, Middle, Last)		1b. LAST NAME AT BIRTH (Maiden Surname)	
2. SEX	3. DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year)	4. BIRTHPLACE (State or Foreign Country)	
5a. RESIDENCE ADDRESS (Number and Street)		5b. CITY OR TOWN OF RESIDENCE	
5c. STATE OF RESIDENCE		5d. COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE	
6a. FATHER'S OR PARENT'S NAME (First, Middle, Last Name at Birth)		6b. BIRTHPLACE (State or Foreign Country)	
7a. MOTHER'S OR PARENT'S NAME (First, Middle, Last Name at Birth)		7b. BIRTHPLACE (State or Foreign Country)	

<b>APPLICANT B</b> <input type="checkbox"/> BRIDE <input type="checkbox"/> GROOM <input type="checkbox"/> SPOUSE    (check one)			
8a. LEGAL NAME (First, Middle, Last)		8b. LAST NAME AT BIRTH (Maiden Surname)	
9. SEX	10. DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year)	11. BIRTHPLACE (State or Foreign Country)	
12a. RESIDENCE ADDRESS (Number and Street)		12b. CITY OR TOWN OF RESIDENCE	
12c. STATE OF RESIDENCE		12d. COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE	
13a. FATHER'S OR PARENT'S NAME (First, Middle, Last Name at Birth)		13b. BIRTHPLACE (State or Foreign Country)	
14a. MOTHER'S OR PARENT'S NAME (First, Middle, Last Name at Birth)		14b. BIRTHPLACE (State or Foreign Country)	

**THE CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION BELOW MUST BE COMPLETED. IT WILL NOT APPEAR ON CERTIFIED COPIES OF THE RECORD.**

<b>APPLICANT A</b>		
22. TOTAL NO. OF MARRIAGES AND CIVIL UNIONS, INCLUDING THIS ONE	23a. LAST MARRIAGE OR CIVIL UNION ENDED BY (check one) ___ Death ___ Divorce ___ Dissolution ___ Annulment ___ Civil union did not end; marrying civil union partner	23b. DATE LAST MARRIAGE OR CIVIL UNION ENDED Month _____ Year _____

<b>APPLICANT B</b>		
25. TOTAL NO. OF MARRIAGES AND CIVIL UNIONS, INCLUDING THIS ONE	26a. LAST MARRIAGE OR CIVIL UNION ENDED BY (check one) ___ Death ___ Divorce ___ Dissolution ___ Annulment ___ Civil union did not end; marrying civil union partner	26b. DATE LAST MARRIAGE OR CIVIL UNION ENDED Month _____ Year _____

**DOES EITHER APPLICANT HAVE A LEGAL GUARDIAN OR IS EITHER APPLICANT UNDER AGE 18?    YES    NO**

18 V.S.A. § 5131 (4)(A) provides that "parties to a civil union certified in Vermont may elect to dissolve their civil union upon marrying one another but are not required to do so to form a civil marriage." The option to elect dissolution of the civil union is found in the confidential section of the marriage license and shall become effective upon solemnization of the marriage.

**APPLICANTS**

We hereby certify that the information provided is correct to the best of our knowledge and belief and that we are free to marry under the laws of Vermont.

15a. SIGNATURE (Applicant A)	15b. DATE SIGNED	16a. SIGNATURE (Applicant B)	16b. DATE SIGNED
15c. TELEPHONE NUMBER	15d. E-MAIL ADDRESS	16c. TELEPHONE NUMBER	16d. E-MAIL ADDRESS

Planned marriage date \_\_\_\_\_ Location (City or Town) \_\_\_\_\_

Officiant name and mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

Your mailing address after wedding \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want a certified copy of your Civil Marriage Certificate (\$10.00)    Yes    No

Date license issued \_\_\_\_\_ Clerk issuing license \_\_\_\_\_