

## **GEORGIA MARRIAGE LICENSES**

**MARRIAGE LICENSES WILL BE ISSUED BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8:00 A.M. AND 4:30 P.M., MONDAY – FRIDAY. ANY GEORGIA RESIDENT MAY APPLY FOR A LICENSE IN ANY COUNTY IN GEORGIA. HOWEVER, IF NEITHER APPLICANT IS A RESIDENT OF GEORGIA, YOU MAY ONLY OBTAIN YOUR LICENSE IN THE COUNTY WHERE THE CEREMONY IS PERFORMED.**

### **Legal Requirement:**

1. Applicants must be of sound mind, must have no living spouse of a previous undissolved marriage, and must not be related to the prospective spouse by blood or marriage within the prohibited degrees.
2. A 17-year old may be issued a marriage license **IF ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ARE MET:**
  - a. A certified copy of an Order granting emancipation from Juvenile Court.
  - b. At least 15 days have passed since the date the Order granting emancipation was granted.
  - c. The older party to the marriage is no more than 4 years older than the youngest party.
  - d. Applicants who are 17 years old must present a certificate of completion of premarital education pursuant to O.C.G.A. §19-3-30.1.

### **How to Obtain a Marriage License:**

1. Both parties must be present to apply.
2. Both parties must have proper Identification (Valid Driver's License, Original or Certified copy of birth certificate along with a Valid Photo ID, Valid Passport, Valid Military ID or any other ID as outlined in O.C.G.A. §19-3-36).
3. Certified copy with RAISED SEAL of Divorce Decree or Death Certificate from last marriage (if previously married). NO EXCEPTIONS.
4. If either applicant does not speak fluent English a Court Approved Translator will be required to apply for a Marriage License and Marriage Ceremony if being married in this Court.

### **Fees:**

The fee for a marriage license is \$56.00. If Applicants present to the court at the time of making the application a Certificate of Completion of a premarital education program the fee for a marriage license is \$16.00. In order to qualify for the reduced fee, the premarital education program; must be completed within 12 months prior to the date of the application for a marriage license; must have been taken by the applicants together; must have included not less than six hours of instruction involving marital issues, which may include but not limited to conflict management, communication skills, financial responsibilities, child and parenting responsibilities, and extended family roles; and must have been provided by:

1. A professional counselor, social worker, or marriage and family therapist licensed in Georgia;
2. A psychiatrist who is licensed as a physician in Georgia;
3. A psychologist licensed in Georgia; or
4. An active member of the Clergy when in the course of his or her services as Clergy or his or her designee, provided the designee is trained and skilled in premarital education.

If the Applicants complete a premarital education program, then the Applicants must present a notarized Certificate of Completion when applying for the marriage license to pay the reduced fee. A copy of the Certificate of Completion is provided below.

**Certified Copy of a Marriage License:** Certified copies of marriage license and marriage application are \$10.00 each and can be purchased after the original license has been returned to Probate Court for recording. A request may be made in person, by mail or online. A marriage license request form may be submitted to receive a certified or copy of a marriage license. A certified copy is \$10.00, and a copy is \$1.00. If requesting by mail, please complete the marriage license request form in its entirety and mail along with a money order or cashier's check to: Lowndes County Probate Court, 327 North Ashley Street, Valdosta, Georgia 31601, **OR** you may return to the home page and click on the link that says: [\*\*Request certified copy of marriage license online.\*\*](#)

**Form of Payment:**

The Court only accepts payment in the form of cash, money order, Visa or Master Card.

**Getting Married at the Courthouse:**

Marriage at the courthouse is **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY** on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month, subject to availability. You may inquire about appointment availability Monday – Friday, between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:30 P.M.

**It is recommended that you obtain your marriage license 3-5 days prior to your appointment to be married at the courthouse. Otherwise, both parties will need to arrive an hour prior to your ceremony appointment to apply for your marriage license.**

**\*Please Note:** When being married in Probate Court appropriate attire is required.

**FORMS**

**Marriage Application**

**Affidavit for Underage Marriage Applicant**

**Premarital Education Certificate**

**Marriage License Request Form**