

LOWNDES COUNTY PROBATE COURT
MARRIAGE LICENSE INFORMATION

MARRIAGE LICENSES ARE ISSUED BETWEEN THE HOURS OF
8:30 A.M. AND 4:15 P.M., MONDAY – FRIDAY.

GEORGIA RESIDENTS WITH CURRENT GEORGIA DRIVER'S LICENSE OR GEORGIA STATE IDENTIFICATION CARD MAY APPLY FOR A LICENSE IN ANY COUNTY IN GEORGIA. HOWEVER, IF NEITHER APPLICANT IS A RESIDENT OF GEORGIA, A MARRIAGE LICENSE MUST BE OBTAINED IN THE COUNTY WHERE THE CEREMONY WILL BE 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 a proper form of Government Issued Photo Identification, reflecting current legal name. Acceptable forms of Government Issued Photo Identifications are: 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. If either party has been previously married, a Certified copy with **RAISED SEAL** of Divorce Decree or Death Certificate from the last marriage must be provided at the time of applying. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** If any of these documents are not in English, an official certified translation is required. You may need to contact your Consulate for assistance obtaining an official certified translation.
4. If either applicant does not speak fluent English, a Court Approved Translator will be required to apply for a Marriage License.
5. **PLEASE NOTE:** This office **does not** accept E-Certified Divorce Decrees, Digital Driver's Licenses or Digital State Issued Identification.
6. You may complete a hand written (*entirely and legibly*) application, available on the Probate Court section of www.lowndescounty.com and at the Probate Court office **or** you may submit an application online at <https://lcprobate.lowndescounty.com/web/>. **PLEASE NOTE:** If the application is submitted online, you must still appear at the Lowndes County Probate Court to complete the application process with payment, required identification, and additional documentation as stated above.
7. **It is recommended that you obtain your marriage license 5-7 days prior to your wedding.**

Fees:

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|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| • Marriage License | \$56.00 |
| • Marriage License with Qualifying Premarital Education | \$16.00* |
| • Certified Copy of Marriage License | \$10.00 each** |
| • Certified Copy of Marriage Application and License | \$10.00 each** |
| • Photocopy | \$1.00 each |

*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 reduced fee. **Certification of Premarital Counseling affidavit** may be obtained at the Lowndes County Probate Court or printed from the Probate Court section of www.lowndescounty.com.

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.

****Certified Copy of a Marriage License:** Certified copies of Marriage License and Marriage Application with Marriage License may be obtained once the original Marriage License has been returned to Probate Court for recording. Requests may be made in person, by mail or online. **If requesting by mail**, please complete Marriage License request form in its entirety, and mail along with a money order or cashier's check to the **Lowndes County Probate Court, 327 North Ashley Street, Valdosta, Georgia 31601**. Request form may be printed from the Probate Court section of www.lowndescounty.com. **If requesting online**, you may request and pay for a Certified Copy of Marriage License at <https://www.feepayonline.com/certificates/default.aspx?CourtID=NTU=>.

PLEASE NOTE: Requests for certified copies or photocopies of *Marriage Application with License* may only be made by the Marriage Applicants in person or by mail. *Photocopy of Valid Driver's License or State Issued ID must be included if requesting by mail.*

Fees are non-refundable should your marriage record not be found in the Lowndes County Probate Court.

Form of Payment:

The Court only accepts payment in the form of Cash (Exact or no bills larger than \$20), Visa, MasterCard, Discover, Money Order or Cashier's Check.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025

**The Lowndes County Probate Court no longer performs wedding ceremonies.
Please refer to O.C.G.A. §19-3-30(c) on who may officiate your ceremony.**