

TEXAS MARRIAGE REQUIREMENTS

1. Where do you get a marriage license? Couples must go to a county clerk's office in person to apply for a marriage license.

2. What should you bring? To apply for a marriage license, a man and a woman must each have a valid form of identification, such as a driver's license; a certified copy of a birth certificate; a passport or military identification card; and their Social Security cards.

3. What are the requirements?

- Proper identification: see #2 above
- Age requirements: You must be 18 years of age to marry on your own. If you're between 16 and 18, you must have parental consent or a court order granting permission to marry. If you're younger than 16, you must have a court order granting permission to marry.
- Residency requirements: You don't have to be a resident of Texas.
- Premarital education: Couples are encouraged to attend a pre-marital education course of at least eight hours. It should be completed in the year preceding application for a marriage license.
- Waiting period: There is a 72-hour waiting period from the time of getting a marriage license to the marriage ceremony. This time period may be waived for members of the armed forces or by a judge, or if the couple has completed a premarital education course.

4. What does it cost? It costs \$60 in cash for the license. Fees are waived if you've completed a pre-marital education course. Military personnel being deployed to a hostile fire zone don't pay the fee.

5. Who can perform a marriage in Texas? A licensed or ordained minister, priest or rabbi; justice of the peace; and most judges can marry couples.

6. What are the requirements for common law marriage? The man and woman must both be 18 or older, not currently married to someone else, agree to be married and live together in Texas as husband and wife, and represent to others that they are married. Informal marriages may be registered at the county clerk's office on a form provided by the Vital Statistics Unit of the Department of State Health Services.

Source: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/vs/marriagedivorce/mdfaq.shtm>