a free guide for couples

How to Get Your Florida Marriage License

No ceremony in Florida is legal without a valid marriage license. Here is everything you need, in the order you'll need it, so the paperwork is the easiest part of your day.

1

Read the Family Law Handbook

Florida law requires both of you to read it and sign a statement saying you have. Your county clerk provides the handbook and the form.

2

Consider a premarital course

A course of at least 4 hours from a registered provider, taken within 1 year before you apply, **lowers your license fee** and **removes the 3-day wait** for Florida residents.

3

Apply together, in person

Both of you go to a county clerk's office together. Many counties let you fill out the application online first to save time. Bring the items on page 2.

Any Florida county will do: a license from one county works anywhere in the state.

4

Mind the dates

Florida residents without a premarital course wait **3 days** from the day you apply before the license takes effect. Couples who live outside Florida have **no wait**.

The license is good for **60 days** from the day it's issued. Plan your trip to the clerk inside that window.

5

Bring the license to your ceremony

The original license must be with you on the day. Without it, your officiant can't legally marry you.

6

Your officiant files it

After the ceremony, your officiant signs the license and returns it to the clerk who issued it within 10 days. Then you can order certified copies from that clerk for name changes and records.

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CHECKLIST & COSTS

What to bring to the clerk

- [ ] Both of you, together, in person
- [ ] A valid, unexpired photo ID for each of you: driver's license, state ID, passport or military ID
- [ ] Your Social Security numbers (U.S. residents)
- [ ] The date your last marriage ended, if either of you was married before
- [ ] Your premarital course certificates, if you took one
- [ ] Your signed handbook statement
- [ ] Payment for the license fee

What it costs

Fees are set by law and collected by each county. Orange County's, as an example:

Marriage license	**$86.00**
With a premarital course certificate	**$61.00**
Credit card surcharge	**+$3.50**

Other counties may differ slightly. Check your clerk's website before you go.

On your wedding day

- [ ] The original marriage license
- [ ] The rings
- [ ] Your vows: printed, on your phone or in vow books
- [ ] The exact ceremony address, shared with your officiant and guests
- [ ] Two witnesses, if you'd like them. Florida doesn't require any.

Good to know

- Both of you must be 18 or older. A 17-year-old needs written parental consent, with limits.
- Couples with a hardship can ask the clerk to waive the 3-day wait.
- Florida allows a notary public, clergy or certain officials to marry you.
- Fee waivers are available to eligible couples. Ask your clerk.

a tip from Stacy Go to the clerk about two to three weeks before your date. That clears the 3-day wait, stays well inside the 60 days, and leaves time to fix a typo or a forgotten ID.

Sources: Florida Statutes §§741.01, 741.0305, 741.04, 741.041 and 741.08 (2026), and the Orange County Clerk of Courts marriage license page, checked October 2026. This guide is general information, not legal advice. Requirements and fees can change, so confirm with your county clerk before you go.