



CALIFORNIA REPUBLIC

California Marriage License Information

San Francisco Bay Area
Including the Counties of Alameda, Contra
Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San
Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and others

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www.officiallyyoursweddings.com

www.weddingwire.com/officiallyyoursweddings

www.facebook.com/officiallyyoursweddings

www.yelp.com/biz/officially-yours-pleasanton-2

Frequently Asked Marriage License Questions:

Q: Do we have to get our Marriage License before the ceremony?

A: Yes!! California Law requires that a valid, legal license, issued by the County Clerk's office of any California county, be presented to the officiant prior to the ceremony.

Q: When should we get our Marriage License?

A: When purchased, the license is considered as a "Permit to Get Married" and is ONLY GOOD FOR 90 DAYS! It becomes a license once it has been filed after the ceremony has been completed. We recommend that you purchase your license approximately 30 - 45 days prior to your scheduled ceremony date.

Q: Where and how do we get our Marriage License?

A: You can purchase your license at the County Clerk's Office located in the county seat for any County. Check the County Clerk's website for the county you are going to. Check fees and hours that they are open. Price is different in each county! You need to appear TOGETHER. Bring a photo ID (Driver's License or Passport or both), know your parents' names and where they were born (State or Country), and bring either cash or a credit/debit card.

Q: Don't we have to get our license in the same county that we are getting married in?

A: No. The Marriage License can be issued in ANY county within California and you can get married in ANY county in California.

Q: When do we sign our license?

A: The two of you will sign your license only one time and that will be in front of the County Clerk when your license is issued. Following the ceremony, the officiant and your witness(es) will then sign your license attesting to the fact that there was, in fact, a ceremony.

Q: How soon will we get a copy of our Marriage License?

A: There are only TWO Counties in the Bay Area that will automatically send you a copy of your completed license. They are Alameda County and Napa County. For every other county, you need to wait 10 - 14 days to either go in person or send in a written request (which requires a notarized signature). Each copy will cost you \$15.00 to \$20.00, depending on the county.

Q: Is there a way to get the certified copy of our license faster?

A: Yes! If you bring the completed Request for Certified Copy form (provided either online or at the County Clerk's office), with the required notarized signature, and a check made out to the County Clerk for the number of copies that you want, to the officiant with the Marriage License prior to the ceremony, he/she will file the request WITH the license and you will get your Certified copy of your Marriage License in about 10 -14 days.

Q: Can I wait to decide if I want to change my name?

A: No. Due to the Name Equality Act of 2007, this is a decision that MUST be made prior to purchasing your Marriage License. If your new name is not on the Certified Copy of your Marriage License, you CANNOT use marriage as the reason for changing your name. The only way you could then change your name is by petitioning the court for a legal name change.

Q: Can I start changing my name before I get married?

A: No. Most agencies will require proof, in the form of a certified copy of your Marriage License, before they allow you to change your name.

County Clerk / Recorder Information:

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Alameda County

Alameda County Clerk-Recorder's Office
1106 Madison Street
Oakland, CA 94607
or 7600 Dublin Blvd. #160
Dublin, CA 94568
www.acgov.org/auditor/clerk
Public License Fee: \$81.00.
Confidential License Fee: \$90.
Certified copies are \$19.00 per copy.

Contra Costa County

Contra Costa County Clerk Recorder's Office
555 Escobar St.
Martinez, CA 94553
www.ccclerkrec.us/
Public License Fee: \$86.00.
Confidential License Fee: \$90.00.
Certified copies are \$21.00 per copy.

Marin County

Marin County Clerk's Office
Marin County Civic Center, Room 234
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903
www.marincounty.org
Public License Fee: \$85.00.
Confidential License Fee: \$93.00.
Certified copies are \$17.00 per copy.

Mendocino County

Mendocino County Clerk Recorder's Office
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1020
Ukiah, CA 95482
www.mendocinocounty.org/government/assessor-county-clerk-recorder-elections/county-recorder
Public License Fee: \$85.00
Confidential License Fee: \$87.00
Certified Copy of License: \$17.00

Napa County

Napa County Clerk-Recorder
900 Coombs St.
Napa, CA 94559
<http://www.sbcvote.us/county-recorder>
Public License Fee: \$83.00
Confidential License Fee: \$95.00
Certified Copy of License: \$17.00

Sacramento County

Sacramento County Clerk Recorder's Office
600 8th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 or
5229 Hazel Ave, Suite B, Fair Oaks, CA 95628 or
8239 E. Stockton Blvd., Suite A, Sacramento, CA 95828
www.ccr.sacramento.net
Public License Fee: \$84.00
Confidential License Fee: \$95.00
Certified Copy of License: \$17.00

San Francisco County

San Francisco Office of the County Clerk City and County of San Francisco
City Hall, Room 168
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4678
www.sfgov.org/countyclerk
Public License Fee: \$120.00
Confidential License Fee: \$120.00
Certified Copy of License: \$17.00

San Joaquin County

San Joaquin County Clerk Recorder's Office
6 South El Dorado St.
Stockton, CA 95202
www.co.san-joaquin.ca.us/Recorder
Public License Fee: \$65.00
Confidential License Fee: \$73.00
Certified Copy of License: \$17.00

San Mateo County

San Mateo County Clerk-Recorder's Office
555 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063
www.smcare.org/
Public License Fee: \$78.00
Confidential License Fee: \$80.00
Certified Copy of License: \$17.00

Santa Clara County

Santa Clara County Clerk's Office
70 West Hedding Street
San Jose, CA 95110
<http://www.sccgov.org/portal/site/rec/>
Public License Fee: \$80.00
Confidential License Fee: \$83.00
Certified Copy of License: \$17.00

Solano County

Solano County Clerk's Office
675 Texas Street, Suite 1900
Fairfield, CA 94533
<http://www.sccclerk.us/CountyClerkHome/MarriageLicense.aspx>
Public License Fee: \$95.00
Confidential License Fee: \$105.00
Certified Copy of License: \$19.00
Certified Copy of Confidential License: \$20.00

Sonoma County

Sonoma County Clerk's Office
585 Fiscal Drive, Room 103
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/administrative-support-and-fiscal-services/clerk-recorder-assessor-registrar-of-voters/clerk-recorder/clerk-services/marriage-license>
Public License Fee: \$82.00
Confidential License Fee: \$98.00
Certified Copy of License: \$17.00

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What You'll Need

- Photo ID with Name and Birth Date (Birth Certificates are NOT required or needed)
- If divorced, you'll need to know the date your previous marriage was dissolved
- Names (including Mother's Maiden Name) and Birthplace of Parents (State or Country)
- Cash, check, or Debit Card (Very few Counties accept Credit Cards – Check County Website First)



For other County or the most current Information, please check the county website. Prices subject to change without notice.

Changing Your Name:

Social Security Card:

Contact your local Social Security Office

Phone # 1-800- 772-1213 or visit their website at www.ssa.gov

You will need:

Certified copy of marriage certificate with file number at top, (Current ID (mandatory), Proof of US citizenship or immigration status if not born in US (NOTE: Changing name on social security record without first changing name through immigration may cause problems with records not matching) If available, you may wish to bring your birth certificate, as well, in case any information other than your name is incorrect on SSA records

Driver's License:

Contact your local DMV office. Inform them that you have changed your name and that you need their records to reflect the change.

Federal Income Taxes:

Complete your tax return with your new name. Social Security will forward the information regarding your name change to the IRS. Confirm that the IRS has received this information.

State Taxes:

Send a letter to:

Taxpayer Services

Franchise Tax Board

P.O. Box 942840

Sacramento, CA 94240-0000

Inform them that you have changed your name. Include prior name, new name, and Social Security number.

Passport:

San Francisco Passport Agency

95 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

Phone # 1-877-487-2778

Also contact companies related to your:

Professional Licenses

Bank Accounts

Credit Cards

Voter Registration

Car Title

Insurance

Doctors Office

Investments

Legal Documents

Pet Microchip

Other Bills

Online Subscriptions

Social Media

Any other place where your name is listed

Corporate H-R and "IT" Dept (If Changing E-Mail Address)

PayPal, CashApp, or Venmo

Note: If you are a citizen of another country, and here in the United States on a VISA, you may need to contact U.S Citizenship and Immigrations Services BEFORE starting the process of changing your name! www.uscis.gov