

Supervisor
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Town Board
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DAVID ADHAMI
MARIANN DALIMONTE

Receiver of Taxes
CHARLES BERMAN

**TOWN OF NORTH HEMPSTEAD
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK**

200 Plandome Road
Manhasset, NY 11030
Tel: (516) 869-7650
Fax: (516) 627-1714



Town Clerk
RAGINI SRIVASTAVA.

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:
MARRIAGE LICENSES**

Q. What is the difference between a Marriage License and Marriage Certificate?

A. A Marriage License is what the couple applies for before marriage and needs to get married.
A Marriage Certificate is the legal document and certification the couple receives AFTER they are legally wed.

Q. What are the required DOCUMENTS to get a MARRIAGE LICENSE?

A. You must have two forms of ID, one from each column below.

**2 Forms of Identification are necessary,
one from Column 1 and 2 per person.**

| Column 1 | Column 2 | Column 3 |
|--|--|--|
| <p><u>Proof of age and identity:</u></p> <p>* A Certified Record of Birth.</p> <p>* An original Baptismal Record.</p> <p>* An original Naturalization Record.</p> <p>(If any documents are in a foreign language an official certified translation is required along with the original document.)</p> | <p><u>One current identification related document with photo:</u></p> <p>* Valid, current U.S. Driver's License or valid U.S. non-driver's license.</p> <p>* Valid Passport, non-U.S. passports must have current VISA.</p> <p>* U.S. Military Identification.</p> <p>* Valid and unexpired Green Card.</p> | <p><u>If either party has been divorced</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Original Divorce Decree or Judgement of Divorce is required. Must have a seal. <p><u>If either party has been widowed</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Original Death Certificate of deceased spouse is required. Must have a seal. |

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Q. What if I or my fiancé do not have an original birth certificate?

A. Without an original form of ID from Column 1 (see table above), our office will not be able to issue a marriage license.

Q. What if my birth certificate is not in English?

A. Birth Certificates must be in English or an Official Certified Translation from an authorized official translation service must accompany the Original Birth Certificate. COPIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Q. What do I need if this is not my first marriage?

A. If previously married, you must show original, certified documents on how ALL previous marriage(s) ended. This includes whether the applicants are divorced, whether the former spouse or spouses are living and, if so, when, where and against whom the divorce or divorces were granted. COPIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Q. What if I or my fiancé does not speak English?

A. If one of the parties does not speak English, the couple must bring their own interpreter. The partner is not permitted to translate for their future spouse.

Q. I would like to make a late-night appointment for a marriage license.

A. Late hours may be available on certain Wednesdays at our discretion, from 4:15pm to 6:30pm. Reservations are required during Late Night Hours.

Q. How long does the appointment take to make a marriage license?

A. We like to say to give yourselves an hour in case it is busy, or the paperwork is complicated; however, it usually takes less than 30 minutes.

Q. When do we need to get our Marriage License?

A. A Marriage License is valid and active after 24 hours and expires in 60 days. This means that the wedding must take place after 24 hours but before 60 days of obtaining the license.

Q. We have a very busy work schedule, and we are not both able to come to an appointment in person. What can we do?

A. Both fiancés must be there in person with all their original documentation. There is no way around this. If you are unable to come in person, you should not make an appointment for the marriage license.

Q. What will happen if we are missing any of the required documentation?

A. Unfortunately, you will not be able to complete the process of making a marriage license at that time. You will need to make a new appointment after you have all the required paperwork.

Q. Is there a fee for the Marriage License?

A. There is a \$40 fee. (Cash, Credit Card or Money Order are accepted, no personal checks)

Q. Who can officiate the wedding ceremony?

A. According to Section 11 of the Domestic Relations Law, an officiant must be an authorized, officially ordained member of the clergy or a public official in the State of New York such as a mayor, city clerk, deputy city clerk, appointed marriage officer, justice, or judge. In New York City, an officiant must be registered with the City of New York. Ship captains cannot perform marriage ceremonies in New York State. For more information, please refer to <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/DOM/11>.