

# Marriage Information

The following is an informational guide to assist people applying for a marriage license in Blue Earth County or seeking the services of a judge to preside in their wedding.

## **WHERE TO APPLY:**

Marriage licenses are available at the Blue Earth County License Center during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. You may apply in any county of the state regardless of where you live or intend to have the marriage ceremony performed. Once the license is issued, you may use it anywhere in the state within six (6) months. It is not valid for use in states other than Minnesota.

Both parties to be married must apply for the license and their signatures must be notarized. Identification must be provided for both parties. If there are prior marriages that have been terminated through death, divorce, or annulment, a date and court/place of termination must be provided. Other information needed to complete the application includes the following:

- Legal names of both parties
- Address and state of residence
- Date of birth
- Information regarding previous marriages/felony convictions
- If a minor, the names and addresses of parents and legal guardians
- Full names the parties wish to use after marriage
- Social security numbers

## **COST OF THE LICENSE:**

The Legislature has set the fee for a marriage license at **\$115.00**. The marriage license fee for parties who have completed at least 12 hours of premarital education is **\$40.00**. In order to qualify for the reduced fee, the parties must submit a signed and dated statement from the person who provided the premarital education confirming it was received. The premarital education must be provided by a licensed or ordained minister or the minister's designee, a person authorized to solemnize marriages under Section 517.18, or a person authorized to practice marriage and family therapy under Section 148B.33. The education must include the use of a premarital inventory and the teaching of communication and conflict management skills. The license is valid six (6) months from the date issued. No refunds.

## **WAITING PERIOD:**

There are no blood tests or other requirements to marry in Minnesota. However, anyone who has a felony conviction for a crime committed on or after August 1, 2000, under Minnesota law or the law of another state or federal jurisdiction may not use a different surname after marriage except as authorized by Minnesota Statute 259.13, and doing so is a gross misdemeanor. See the [Name Change Notice from Convicted Felon](#).

## **SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGE:**

You may choose to have a marriage ceremony performed by anyone authorized by law to provide the service. Several judges in this county provide this service. You may contact the court during business hours to schedule a ceremony. The phone number is **(507) 594-3055**. Ministers of any religious denomination may also perform the marriage ceremony if they have filed a copy of their ministerial credentials with a Minnesota county.

## **WITNESSESS/CERTIFICATE:**

The law requires that your marriage ceremony be witnessed by two (2) people who are sixteen (16) years old or older. The person solemnizing the marriage will complete the marriage certificate. The certificate will be filed with the Director of Licensing of the county where the license was issued. The Director of Licensing records the marriage and mails a certified copy to the married parties.