

# MARRIAGE LICENSE

## HOW TO APPLY

You can apply for a marriage license in any County Registrar's office in Iowa and it will be valid throughout the state. You, your significant other, and a disinterested witness familiar with both of you, will need to file the application in person and pay a \$35 fee. This fee includes a certified copy of the final marriage certificate. Some counties do allow signed and notarized applications to be filed by mail.

## INFORMATION YOU NEED

You will have to provide your legal names before marriage, after marriage, addresses, birth dates, places of birth, social security numbers, your fathers' full names, and your mothers' full maiden names. The applicants and witness will need to bring a current, Government issued photo ID.

## WAITING PERIOD

There is a four day waiting period from the date the Registrar accepts your application until it is valid. You can waive the waiting period by completing a waiver application when you apply for your license. You both must go to the clerk of court office in the county that you apply for your marriage license in to have your waiver application signed by a judge. Be prepared to wait until a judge is available. Then you must take your signed waiver back to the registrar's office to apply for your marriage license and have it granted immediately. You will have to pay an additional \$5 fee for this waiver.

## GETTING YOUR LICENSE

Pick up your marriage license at the time of application, but remember it is not valid for four days from the time of filing. Have your current, Government issued photo ID. If you choose not to immediately pick up your license, it must be retrieved within six months or it is considered null and void. If it expires, you will need to reapply for a new one and pay the current application fee. The license does not have an expiration date after it is picked up from the County Registrar. Ask for a SS-5 application to complete after marriage to update your Social Security Card.

## SAME-SEX MARRIAGES

Same-sex marriages became legal in Iowa on April 3, 2009, making Iowa the fourth U.S. state to legalize same-sex marriages, after Massachusetts, California and Connecticut. Who would have thought that gay marriage would be legal in Iowa before New York? Unbelievable! Iowa's Constitution ensures equal protection. Everyone has the right to marry the person they love. However, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution protects the separation of the church and state, thus no church can be compelled to recognize gay marriage or perform a service. Check with the church in which you wish to be married to be certain they allow and officiate same-sex marriages.

Anyone can be married in Iowa with a valid Iowa Marriage License. Iowa is an appealing place for same-sex marriages because you do not have to be a resident of Iowa to get married here. Same-sex couples go through the identical process as different-sex couples to register for their marriage license.

### **Benton County Recorder**

[www.Bentoncountyia.org](http://www.Bentoncountyia.org)  
111 East 4th Street Vinton, IA  
(319) 472-3309

### **Cedar County Recorder**

[www.Cedarcounty.org](http://www.Cedarcounty.org)  
400 Cedar Street Tipton, IA  
(563) 886-2230

### **Jones County Recorder**

[www.Jonescountyia.org](http://www.Jonescountyia.org)  
500 W. Main Room 116 Anamosa, IA  
(319) 462-2477

### **Delaware County Recorder**

[www.Delawarecountyia.com](http://www.Delawarecountyia.com)  
301 E. Main #204 PO Box 157  
Manchester, IA  
(563) 927-4665

### **Johnson County Recorder**

[www.Johnson-county.com](http://www.Johnson-county.com)  
913 S. Dubuque St. Iowa City, IA  
(319) 356-6093

### **Linn County Recorder**

[www.Linncounty.org](http://www.Linncounty.org)  
935 2nd St Southwest Cedar Rapids, IA  
(319) 892-5420