

Applying For a Marriage License

Before getting married in Cook County, couples must obtain a marriage license from the Cook County Clerk's office.

For more information

- **Call:** (312) 603-7790
- **E-mail:** vitalrecords@cookcountygov.com

Eligibility

Under Illinois law, only eligible persons can marry. Both the bride and groom must:

- be 18 years of age or older
- be of opposite sex
- not be blood relatives

Individuals who reside out of state may not apply for a marriage license in Illinois if such a marriage would not be legal in their home state.

Applying

Couples must appear together at one of the [Cook County Clerk's six locations](#). They must:

- Fill out and sign a marriage license application.
- Present [valid identification](#) with proof of age.
- The marriage license fee is \$40 (current as of March 2011)

Applicants who have divorced within the last six months must provide a certified copy of their divorce decree upon applying for a marriage license.

Timelines and restrictions

Marriage licenses are:

- issued while you wait
- effective the following calendar day after they are issued
- valid for 60 days
- effective only in Chicago and suburban Cook County

After the marriage ceremony occurs

The individual(s) performing the ceremony must complete the bottom portion of the marriage license and mail or deliver it to the [Clerk's office](#).

You may obtain a copy of your [marriage certificate upon request](#).

***Tip-** You may want to purchase at least 3 copies of your marriage certificate as you will need these for any name changes- work, credit cards, passport etc.*

Courthouse Locations

Cook County Building

Vital Records Division

Cook County Building

118 N. Clark Street (Randolph Street Entrance/lower concourse level)

P.O. Box 642570

Chicago, IL 60664-2570

Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Friday

9 a.m. to noon Saturday (for marriage license applicants only)

Call: (312) 603-7790

E-mail: dorr@cookcountygov.com

North suburbs/Skokie

5600 W. Old Orchard Road, Room 149

Skokie, IL 60077

(847) 470-7233

Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday;

8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday

Northwest suburbs/Rolling Meadows

2121 Euclid Ave., Room 238

Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

(847) 818-2850

Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday;

8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday

West suburbs/Maywood

1311 Maybrook Square, Room 109

Maywood, IL 60153

(708) 865-6010

Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday;

8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday

South suburbs/Markham

16501 S. Kedzie, Room 238

Markham, IL 60426

(708) 210-4150

Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday;

8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday

Southwest suburbs/Bridgeview

10220 S. 76th Ave., Room 238

Bridgeview, IL 60455

(708) 974-6150

Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday;

8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday