

Here is a comprehensive checklist to help you prepare before heading to the clerk's office:

Marriage License Preparation Checklist

1. Essential Identification & Personal Documents

Bring official, non-expired identification for **both partners**:

- ☐ **Government-Issued Photo ID:** Driver's license, state ID card, passport, or military ID.
- ☐ **Proof of Age & Birth:** Certified birth certificate or passport (some jurisdictions require both ID and birth certificate).
- ☐ **Social Security Info:** Social Security card, or know your full Social Security Number (non-U.S. citizens may need a passport or ITIN).
- ☐ **Proof of Residency:** Utility bill, lease, or driver's license with your current address (required in some states or counties).

2. Legal History & Documentation (If Applicable)

If either partner was previously married or legally dissolved a prior civil union:

- ☐ **Previous Marriage Details:** Exact date the previous marriage ended.
- ☐ **Dissolution Papers:** Certified copy of the final divorce decree, annulment document, or death certificate of the deceased spouse.

3. Payment & Logistics

- ☐ **Payment Method:** Check the clerk's accepted payment forms (many require cash, cashier's check, or money order; credit card processing fees often apply).
- ☐ **Required Parties Present:** Ensure both partners can attend the application appointment together (or confirm if remote/online options exist).
- ☐ **Appointment Confirmation:** Printed or digital confirmation if the office requires appointments.

4. Local Rules Verification (Do This First)

Before your visit, call or check the website of the local city/town clerk where you plan to marry to confirm:

- ☐ **Waiting Period:** Number of days required between receiving the license and the ceremony (often 24 to 72 hours).

- [] **Expiration Period:** Validity window for the license (typically 30 to 90 days).
- [] **Witness Requirements:** Whether witnesses are required at the ceremony and their minimum age.