

Marriage

Before a marriage license is issued is there a waiting period or a blood test required?

A probate judge may grant a marriage license at any time after the application for a marriage license is made. In most cases there is no waiting period but in cases in which an issue of identification or other question may arise, a hearing may be required. Ohio law no longer requires blood tests prior to the issuance of a marriage license.

Who is authorized to perform marriage ceremonies in Ohio?

An ordained or licensed minister of any religious society or congregation within this state who is licensed to solemnize marriages (perform wedding ceremonies), a judge of a county court in accordance with section 1907.18 of the Revised Code, a judge of a municipal court in accordance with section 1901.14 of the Revised Code, a probate judge in accordance with section 2101.27 of the Revised Code, the mayor of a municipal corporation in any county in which such municipal corporation wholly or partly lies, the superintendent of the state school for the deaf, or any religious society in conformity with the rules of its church, may join together as husband and wife any person who are not prohibited by law from being joined in marriage.

How long is a marriage license valid?

No marriage license shall be effective nor shall it authorize the performance of a marriage ceremony after the expiration of sixty (60) days from the date of issuance. R. C. 3101.07.

What is common law marriage?

A common law marriage is a marriage of a man and a woman without the benefit of formal papers or procedures. Under Ohio law, common law marriages are not recognized unless the common law marriage began prior to October 10, 1991.

How does a minister become licensed to solemnize marriages (perform marriage ceremonies) in the State of Ohio?

- Obtain an application and a copy of the Ohio minister licensing laws by calling the Secretary of State at (614) 466-2585.
- Complete the application: Your name on the application must be identical to the name on your credentials.
- The name of the congregation for whom you are a regular pastor or minister must be identical and appear on both your credentials and application.
- Complete your address and telephone number.
- Date and sign the application.
- Provide proper credentials (Whichever you provide must be from the religious society/congregation you are serving and representing when you perform a marriage.)

Provide ONE of the following:

- Copy of your license, with original signatures of certification (and annual fellowship card, if required); or
- Copy of your ordination, with original signatures of certification (and annual fellowship card, if required); or
- A letter from the religious society to which you are affiliated stating that you are duly ordained or licensed as a minister in good standing, serving the congregation in a ministerial capacity. An official of the religious society, with his/her title, must sign this letter. (This can include trustees,

- elders, deacons, or directors).
- Send a check or money order in the amount of ten dollars (\$10.00) made payable to the "Ohio Secretary of State".

Mail to: Secretary of State, Elections Division 180 E. Broad St., 15th Floor Columbus, OH 43215