

Arkansas Marriage Officiant Guide

Marriage Officiants: Any regularly-ordained minister or priest of any religious sect or denomination may perform marriage ceremonies in Arkansas. **Prior to performing a ceremony, Officiants must file their ordination credentials with a county or circuit court clerk in the state, who will then issue a certificate to the minister.** (The filing fee is usually \$5.

Please contact your local County Clerk's office for an application and complete instructions.)

PLEASE NOTE: Some County Clerks in Arkansas do not accept ordination credentials bearing an expiration date. In such cases, the church will provide you with a letter of good standing complying with this stipulation.



Certificate of Marriage: Ministers *must* complete the information required in the Certificate of Marriage section on the marriage license. **(See reverse for sample certificate.)** The minister is *not* responsible for returning the license after the marriage ceremony. The applicants are responsible and *must* return the marriage license to the County Clerk's office to be recorded *within sixty (60) days* from the date of issuance.

MARRIAGE LICENSE INFORMATION

This information is meant as a guide only. Much of the information below is state law in Arkansas; however, this information can vary from county to county, and is subject to change. We recommend contacting your county clerk's office before applying for your marriage license.

ID Requirement: Picture ID, such as driver's license, **and** birth certificate. If no birth certificate is available, you will need three forms of identification with name and birth date available on each document.

Application Requirement: Both parties to the marriage must appear in person at the time of applying for the marriage license.

Residency Requirement: You do not have to be a resident of Arkansas.

Waiting Period: No waiting period.

Fees: \$35 (cash only).

Other Tests: No additional tests are required.

Age Requirement: Any applicant under the age of 18 requires consent of both sets of parents.

Proxy Marriage: Not permitted in Arkansas.

Same-Gender Marriage: Permitted following U.S. Supreme Court decision of 26 June 2015.

Valid: **An Arkansas marriage license is valid for 60 days.** The marriage license can only be used (solemnized) within the State of Arkansas.

For additional information, please visit FirstNationMinistry.org/us/arkansas

The above information is believed to be current and correct, but does not purport to be legal advice, is not all-inclusive and shall be used only as a guide. Under the terms specified in your ordination, you are solely responsible for becoming familiar with and complying to all current laws and regulations in effect within the jurisdiction in which you will conduct ceremonies.

Sample Arkansas Marriage License Certificate

Marriage License STATE OF ARKANSAS County of Garland	
TO ANY PERSON AUTHORIZED BY LAW TO SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGE, GREETING: You are hereby commanded to solemnize the rite and publish the banns of Matrimony between	
M <u>John Doe</u> of <u>Hot Springs</u> State of <u>Arkansas</u> and M <u>Jane Doe</u> of <u>Hot Springs</u> and State of <u>Arkansas</u>	THIS SECTION WILL HAVE BEEN COMPLETED BY THE COUNTY CLERK age <u>21</u> years age <u>21</u> years
according to law, and do you officially sign and return this License to the parties herein named.	
Witness my hand and official seal this Day of Week <u>day of</u> Current Month <u> </u>, Year <u> </u> SARAH SMITH County Clerk Signature Of The Clerk Here <u>D. C.</u>	
THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE OFFICIANT Certificate of Marriage State of Arkansas County of <u>Wedding</u> <u>I, </u> Name of Marriage Official do hereby certify, that on the <u>Day of Week</u> day of <u>Current Month</u>, Year <u> </u> I did, duly and according to law, as commanded in the foregoing License, solemnize the rite and publish the banns of Matrimony between the parties therein named. Witness my hand, this <u>Day of Week</u> day of <u>Current Month</u>, Year <u> </u> My credentials are recorded in Recorder's Office, County Where Your Credentials Are Registered <u>County, Arkansas</u> Book <u>Your Book #</u> Page <u>Your Page #</u> Your Signature Signature of Official Administering Vows	
Certificate of Record State of Arkansas County of <u>Garland</u> <u>I, </u> SARAH SMITH Clerk of the County of <u>Garland</u> do hereby certify that the above License for and Certificate of the Marriage of M <u>John Doe</u> and M <u>Jane Doe</u> was filed in my office on the <u>day of</u>, and the same is duly recorded in my <u>Book</u> of Marriage Records. THIS SECTION FOR FILING TO BE COMPLETED BY THE COUNTY CLERK Witness my hand and official seal this day of <u> </u>, SARAH SMITH County Clerk <u>D. C.</u>	
NOTE: This License with the Certificate duly executed and officially signed, must be returned to the office whence it is issued within sixty days from the date of License under penalty of forfeiture of the bond.	

(Actual county-issued document will vary.)