

Colorado Marriage Officiant Guide

Marriage Officiants: Officiants must be legally ordained by a church or religious organization prior to performing any ceremonies in Colorado. Officiants, whether or not they reside in Colorado, are *not required* to register with any agency in the state; however, all Officiants must submit their credentials to any legal authority and/or the bridal couple upon their request.

Couples may solemnize their own marriage themselves (*C.R.S. 14-2-109*) without a Marriage Officiant; check with your local Clerk and Recorder's office for more information. However, friends or relatives *cannot* solemnize a marriage unless they are ordained.

Form of Ceremony: A marriage may be solemnized by a judge of a court of record, a public official whose powers include solemnization of marriages, or in accordance with any mode of solemnization recognized by any religious denomination or Indian nation or tribe. (*C.R.S. 14-2-109*)

MARRIAGE LICENSE INFORMATION

Much of the information below is state law in Colorado; 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.

Fee: Marriage license fee is \$30 (plus additional county and local fees), payable in cash or debit/credit card payment only.

Age Requirements: The legal age to marry without parental consent is 18 years of age in Colorado. Applicants who are 16 or 17 years of age must have parental consent from both parents. A parent who has sole custody of a minor will be required to sign a statement to this fact. If one or both of the parents cannot appear at the time of applying for the license, an absentee application may be completed and notarized ahead of time. This consent form must be presented when the marriage license is issued.



Applicants 15 years of age or younger must obtain a court order granting judicial approval, as well as complying with the above requirements. The court order must be obtained in the county where judicial approval has been granted.

Identification: Driver's license, passport, visa, birth certificate, military ID, or state-issued ID card.

Social Security Number: Must be given when applying for a license. If either party does not have a social security number, they must sign an affidavit when applying for the license.

Application Form: Both applicants should appear in person to complete and sign the marriage application. Applicants need not be residents of Colorado.

Proxy Marriages: Permitted under certain specific situations. At least one party to the marriage must be a Colorado resident, and both parties must be at least 18 years old. If one party cannot appear due to illness, is out of state due to military or government service, or is incarcerated, he or she must obtain an Absentee Application from the local Clerk and Recorder's office. The party applying in person must bring the completed, notarized Absentee Application along with the required identification for the absent party *and* a by proxy affidavit (provided by the Clerk's office). Check with the Clerk and Recorder's office for details.

Previous Marriages: If either party has been divorced or widowed, the date, county and state must be provided, although proof is not required. The couple will be required to swear under oath that all information given is true and correct.

Blood Test: Blood tests are not required to obtain a marriage license.

Cousin Marriages: Allowed.

Common Law Marriages: Recognized by the State under specific circumstances. See “Common Law Marriage in Colorado,” *16 Colo. Law. 252 (1987)*; *Crandall v. Resley*, 804 P.2d 272 (Colo. App. 1990).

Same-Gender Marriages: Permitted as of October 7, 2014.

Grounds for Annulment: Lack of capacity to consent at time solemnized, under-age (not cured by consent of parents or court), fraud, jest or dare, duress and impotency (unknown to other party at time of marriage), and any prohibited marriage. *Sec. 14-10-111. See “Annulments in Colorado,” 22 Colo. Law. 2249 (1993).*

***For additional information, please visit
FirstNationMinistry.org/us/colorado***

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.