

Iowa Marriage Officiant Guide

Marriage Officiants: Ministers of the gospel who are ordained by their church, including those not residing in the state, may perform marriage ceremonies anywhere in Iowa. The Officiant must provide a certificate of marriage to the bride and to the groom. Also, the Officiant must report the marriage (return the completed marriage license) to the clerk of the district court within fifteen days after the ceremony.

MARRIAGE LICENSE INFORMATION

Much of the information below is state law in Iowa; however, this information can vary by location, and is subject to change. We recommend contacting your county clerk's office before applying for your marriage license.

Marriage License ID Requirement: Photo identification required. You are also required to provide your Social Security information.

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

Residency Requirement: Do not have to be a resident of Iowa.

Witness: You must have one witness (over 18 years of age) present with you when you apply for the license.

Waiting Period: There is a mandatory waiting period of three business days following issuance of the marriage license before the ceremony can take place.

If Divorced: The divorce must be final and filed before applicants can apply for a license.

Fees: Varies from county to county (\$30+). Cash only.

Other Tests: No other tests necessary.

Under 18: Marriage license applicants 16 or 17 years of age must have parental consent.

Proxy Marriages: Not permitted. However, if one party cannot be present at the Recorder's Office to apply for the license, the absent party can sign the application before a Notary Public.

Cousin Marriages: Not permitted.

Common Law Marriages: Permitted.

Same-Gender Marriages: Permitted.

Valid: An Iowa marriage license is valid for six months and can only be used within Iowa.

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

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.



Iowa Code – Chapter 595

Excerpts from key sections of the Iowa Code pertaining to your role as a ceremonial minister:

595.10 Who may solemnize.

Marriages may be solemnized by:

1. A judge of the supreme court, court of appeals, or district court, including a district associate judge, associate juvenile judge, or a judicial magistrate, and including a senior judge as defined in Section 602.9202, subsection 3.
2. A person ordained or designated as a leader of the person's religious faith.

595.11 Nonstatutory solemnization — forfeiture.

Marriages solemnized, with the consent of parties, in any manner other than that prescribed in this chapter, are valid; but the parties, and all persons aiding or abetting them, shall pay to the treasurer of state for deposit in the general fund of the state the sum of fifty dollars each; but this shall not apply to the person conducting the marriage ceremony, if within fifteen days after the ceremony is conducted, the person makes the required return to the county registrar.

595.12 Fee and expenses.

1. A judge or magistrate authorized to solemnize a marriage under Section 595.10, subsection 1, may charge a reasonable fee for officiating and making return for each marriage solemnized at a time other than regular judicial working hours. In addition, the judge or magistrate may charge the parties to the marriage for expenses incurred in solemnizing the marriage. No judge or magistrate shall make any charge for solemnizing a marriage during regular judicial working hours. The supreme court shall adopt rules prescribing the maximum fee and expenses that the judge or magistrate may charge.
2. A minister authorized to solemnize a marriage under Section 595.10, subsection 2, may charge a reasonable fee for each marriage solemnization and making return in an amount agreed to by the parties.

595.13 Certificate — return.

After the marriage has been solemnized, the officiating minister or magistrate shall attest to the marriage on the blank provided for that purpose and return the certificate of marriage within fifteen days to the county registrar who issued the marriage license.

595.17 Exceptions.

The provisions of this chapter, as they relate to procuring licenses and to the solemnizing of marriages are not applicable to members of a denomination having an unusual mode of entering the marriage relation.

*For the complete text of Chapter 595 of the Iowa Code,
please visit <http://bit.ly/IowaCode595>*