

Kentucky Marriage Law Guide

Much of the information below is state law; however, this information can change from county to county. We recommend contacting your County Clerk's Office before applying for your marriage license.

Officiants: Marriages may be performed by any minister of the gospel or priests of any denomination with any religious society. *Ministers must be ordained and licensed prior to performing marriage ceremonies.* There is no provision in Kentucky law that a minister be at least eighteen years of age and thus the qualifications of a minister, including age, are left up to the particular religious denomination. *It is illegal for an Officiant to solicit marriages in Kentucky.*

MARRIAGE LICENSE INFORMATION

ID Requirement: Picture ID, such as driver's license. Having your Social Security card, birth certificate, passport, etc., may be helpful.

Application Requirement: Both the bride and groom must appear in person at the time of applying.

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

Waiting Period: No waiting period required. The marriage may be solemnized immediately upon receiving the license.

Fees: \$35.50 — Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Money Order. Fee is non-refundable.

Tests: No tests are required.

Under 18: If you are 16 or 17 years old, you must have the consent of your parents or legal guardian. Custody papers are required if your parents are divorced. The form that you need to have completed is the Consent to Marriage Form (84-FCC-501). It has to be witnessed by two witnesses who are at least 18 years old, signed by your parent or legal guardian, and sworn by the Deputy Clerk. If you are a pregnant minor, you may apply to a district court judge for permission to marry without parental consent. If you are under 16, you must get approval to marry from the District Court. *Kentucky does not permit the marriage of minors whose parents reside outside the Commonwealth of Kentucky.*

Proxy Marriages: Not permitted.

Cousin Marriages: Marriages between persons who are nearer of kin to each other by blood than second cousins are not permitted. Furthermore, Kentucky *does not* recognize these marriages even if legal in another state.

Common Law Marriages: Not permitted. However, Kentucky does recognize common law marriages legalized by another state.

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

Valid: A Kentucky marriage license is valid for 30 days. The marriage license can only be used (solemnized) within the State of Kentucky. Ministers must return the marriage license and marriage certificate to the issuing county clerk within three months after the marriage.

For additional information, please visit FirstNationMinistry.org/us/kentucky.php

The above information is believed to be 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.

