



# Applying for a Marriage/ Civil Union License in New Jersey

## Requirements for entering into a Marriage/Civil Union:

For two persons to establish a Marriage/Civil Union in this State, it shall be necessary that they satisfy all of the following criteria:

- ✓ Not be a party to another civil union, domestic partnership or marriage in this State or recognized by this State;
- ✓ Be at least 18 years of age, except that applicants under the age of 18 may enter into a Marriage with parental consent. Applicants under the age of 16 must obtain parental consent and have the consent approved in writing by any judge of the Superior Court, Chancery Division, Family part, and
- ✓ To enter into a Civil Union, applicants must be of the same sex ;

## Where to apply:

The Marriage/Civil Union license application is to be made in the New Jersey municipality in which either applicant resides and the license is valid throughout the State of New Jersey. If neither applicant is a New Jersey resident, license application must be made in the municipality where the ceremony will occur, the license is only valid in the issuing municipality.

Please contact the [Local Registrar](#) to determine if license applications are handled during business hours or by appointment.

## Required documents when applying for a marriage/ civil union license:

- ✓ Proof of identity (established by presenting your driver's license, passport or state/federal I.D.)
- ✓ Proof of residency
- ✓ Social Security Card or Social Security Number.\*
- ✓ A witness, 18 years of age or older.
- ✓ The \$28 application fee.

\*Social security number is required by law for US citizens and will be kept confidential.

Any documents in a foreign language must be accompanied by a certified English translation.

## Once you have applied:

- ✓ The application is valid for six months from the date **accepted**. You can, at the time of application, request the Local Registrar to extend the validity of the application to a maximum of one year.
- ✓ There is a 72-hour waiting period before the license can be issued. The waiting period begins when the application is filed with the Local Registrar. There is no 72 hour waiting period for a Remarriage/Reaffirmation of Civil Union; however, you must bring a certified copy of your existing Marriage/Civil Union.
- ✓ Once **issued** the marriage/civil union license is valid for 30 days.



## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFIED COPIES

A Completed Application for Genealogical or Non-Genealogical Copy of a Vital Record Should Include Valid Identification Such as:

Valid photo driver's license or photo non-driver's license with current address

**OR**

Valid driver's license without photo and an alternate form of ID with current address

**OR**

Two alternate forms of ID, one of which must show the current address

- Vehicle Registration Card
- Vehicle Insurance Card
- Voter Registration Card
- US/Foreign Passport
- Immigrant Visa/Permanent Residence Card (Green Card)
- Federal/State ID/ School ID
- Utility Bill or Bank Statement (within last 90 days)
- W-2 for current or the previous tax year

If you are requesting a **certification**, (an informational copy of a vital record not valid for legal purposes) you do not need to provide proof of relationship.

If you are looking for a **certified copy**, proof of relationship is required that establishes you are:

- The subject of the record
- The subject's parent, legal guardian or legal representative
- The subject's spouse/civil union partner/domestic partner; child, grandchild or sibling, if of legal age
- A state or federal agency for official purposes
- Pursuant to court order

To establish proof of relationship for.....

**Your own birth certificate** your valid ID is acceptable; however; if you have assumed your spouse's or civil union partner's surname, provide a copy of your marriage or civil union certificate to link the name on your current ID to the name on your birth certificate.

**Your child's birth certificate**, if the name on your identification matches the name of the child's parent then your identification will establish your relationship. If your current name does not match the name as recorded on the birth certificate, as the parent you will need to supply a copy of your marriage or civil union certificate or legal name change.

**Your spouse's/civil union partner's birth record**, provide a copy of your marriage/civil union certificate.

**Your parent's or sibling's vital record**, provide a copy of **YOUR** birth certificate with parents' names.

**Your grandparent's vital record**, you must establish that you are the person's grandchild by linking the name on your ID to the name of the grandparent. For example, if you changed your last name after marriage/civil union and want a grandparent's vital record, you must: 1.) Provide your marriage/civil union certificate to show your name at birth, 2.) provide your birth certificate to identify your parent, and 3.) provide the parent's birth certificate to identify the grandparent.

If you are looking for a **certified copy** of a record and are....

**An executor of an estate**, you must supply proof of appointment as the executor.

**The legal representative of the executor of an estate**, you must supply proof of legal retainer by the executor and proof of the appointment of the individual as the executor.

**The legal representative** of an individual that is eligible to receive a certified copy of a vital record, you must supply proof of legal retainer by the eligible individual and their proof of relationship.

If you are not a person qualified to get a **certified copy** of a record but.....

**You are helping a person** receive a certified copy of a vital record they are eligible to receive.....you must show your valid ID and a notarized, written release authorizing you to get the record on that person's behalf **OR**, you can supply a written release from the person you are helping along with a copy of that person's valid photo ID.

**In need of a vital record and are not the legal representative** of an eligible person, you must obtain a court order directing the State Registrar to issue a certified copy of the record. A subpoena is not sufficient to issue a copy of a vital record.