



MARRIAGE IN SOUTH CAROLINA



MARRIAGE LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

- **License Fee:** Varies by county.
- **Minimum Age: (16).**
- **Minors:** Must have parental consent and present a certified or original birth certificate.
 - The parents of minor(s) must provide identification.
- **Waiting Period:** There is, at least, a **(24)** twenty-four hour waiting period after the application is made before the license can be obtained and the parties can be married.
 - This waiting period varies from county to county, so please contact the appropriate county Probate Judge's office at least a week before you plan to get married.
- **License Validity:** There is no expiration date for a South Carolina marriage license.
- **Blood Test:** Not Required.
- **Residency:** Not Required.
- **Witnesses:** Not Required.

MARRIAGE REQUIREMENTS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

To complete the application for a marriage license, **a couple must:**

- Both parties must appear together and file a written application that must be signed by both contracting parties and notarized in the office of the Probate Judge in which the license is to be issued.
- Applicants between eighteen and twenty-five years old must submit proof of identity and age.
- Pay the necessary license fee.
- Wait the 24 hours period after the application is made before the license can be obtained and the parties can be married.
- This waiting period varies from county to county, so please contact the appropriate county Probate Judge's office at least a week before you plan to get married.

DOCUMENTS OF PROOF FOR THE AGE REQUIREMENT

- Valid Driver's License
- Original Birth Certificate or a certified copy of the Birth Certificate
- Valid State ID
- Valid Passport

MARRIAGE LICENSE FEES

- The marriage license fees varies from county to county pursuant to South Carolina Code Section 20-1-230, so call ahead to your county Probate Judge's office to ensure you have the right fee and ask what form of payment is accepted. In some cases, you may need to bring cash. Additionally there is a \$20 fee for each license application.
- If a couple has completed a qualifying premarital preparation course PRIOR to applying for the license and presents a certificate of completion at the time of application, they may be eligible to receive a \$50 non-refundable state income tax credit pursuant to S.C. Code 20-1-230.

DISCLAIMER: THIS HANDOUT PROVIDES A GENERAL EXPLANATION OF MARRIAGE IN SOUTH CAROLINA. DO NOT RELY EXCLUSIVELY ON THIS HANDOUT. IF YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS OR SEEK ADVICE REGARDING THIS SUBJECT PLEASE:

CONTACT THE LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE, OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA BAR, AT 1-800-868-2284 (IN SUMTER: 803-799-6653) FOR A REFERRAL TO A LAWYER WHO PRACTICES IN THIS AREA OF LAW. IF YOU ARE INDIGENT AND UNABLE TO PAY FOR A LAWYER'S SERVICE, YOU MAY WANT TO CONTACT THE LEGAL AID TELEPHONE INTAKE SERVICE AT 1-888-346-5592 TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY FOR FREE OR REDUCED LEGAL SERVICES.

SOURCE:<https://www.usmarriagelaws.com/marriage-license/south-carolina/probate-court/office-requirements.shtml>;
<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t20c001.php>