



MARGIE M. MULLINS

404 ELM STREET • ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61101 • ADMINISTRATION/VITAL RECORDS 815/319-4250
ELECTIONS 815/319-4252 • TAX REDEMPTIONS 815/319-4253 • FAX 815/319-4251

Marriage and Civil Union Licenses

Who needs to apply for a marriage or civil union license in Winnebago County, Illinois?

If you plan to be married or joined by civil union in Winnebago County, Illinois, you need to purchase a license from our office. Where you live is not a consideration.

Where do we get our marriage or civil union license?

You must call the Winnebago County Clerk's office between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday to get an appointment to get your license. The couple must come to the office at their appointed time to apply and receive their license. The address is:

404 Elm Street, Suite 104
Rockford, Illinois

When should we purchase the license?

You can not use the license the same day you purchase it because there is a one-day waiting period. After the one-day wait, you will have 60 days to use the license. After 60 days the license is no longer valid.

How much does a license cost?

The fee for the license is \$20.00 and it must be paid in cash at our office.

Winnebago County Mission Statement

It is our mission to provide high quality services and promote a safe community for all people in Winnebago County.





WINNEBAGO COUNTY CLERK

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What are the age requirements to obtain a license?

To be married without parental or guardian consent or to be joined in civil union, both applicants must be 18 years of age by the date the license is effective.

Must we have proof of our age?

Persons who are 21 years of age or over must show proof of age. A valid driver's license is acceptable identification. All persons under 21 years of age will be asked to provide additional proof of age. Any one of the following will be acceptable as an additional form of proof: a certified birth certificate; a baptismal certificate, if the baptism took place before the age of 7; a military ID; or a passport.

I'm less than 18 year of age, can I still get married?

Yes, those 16 and 17 years of age may obtain a license with proper approval and documentation. One of the following conditions must be met:

1. You must have the approval of BOTH PARENTS. This can be done by having the parent(s) appear with you in the County Clerk's Office to fill out and sign the proper waivers when you obtain your license.
2. If one or both of you have a legal guardian, the guardian will have to give consent in person. This can be done by having the guardian appear with you in the County Clerk's office to fill out and sign the proper waivers when you obtain your license. Certified guardianship papers must be brought with you when you come to apply for your license.

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What if one or both of us are divorced?

Since you are being married or joined in civil union in the State of Illinois you must follow the requirements of this State. Illinois law states that if one of you obtained a divorce in a state that requires a six or more month waiting period, such as Wisconsin, you will not be allowed to marry in Illinois until that time period has passed. (NOTE: This does not apply if both parties are residents of Illinois at the time they obtain their license.)

It is not necessary for you to bring in copies of your divorce papers. You will need to know the month and year that you were divorced for your application.

Are there reasons that we may not be allowed to get married or joined by civil union?

Yes, here are some circumstances that may prohibit you from being joined under Illinois law.

1. A marriage or civil union is not allowed if one or both parties is already married or joined by civil union.
2. A marriage or civil union is not allowed between an ancestor and a descendant or between a brother and a sister, whether the relationship is by the half or the whole blood or by adoption.
3. A marriage or civil union is not allowed between an uncle and a niece or between an aunt and a nephew, whether the relationship is by the half or the whole blood.
4. A marriage or civil union is not allowed between cousins of the first degree, except when parties are 50 years of age and older or one is permanently and irreversibly sterile. A doctor's certificate is required before the license is issued.

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Important reminders about obtaining your license:

1. The license fee is \$20 and it must be paid in CASH.
2. You cannot use the Winnebago County license in any other county or state.
3. The license **“CANNOT BE USED FOR ONE DAY FROM THE DATE OF ISSUANCE”** and must be used within 60 days of the day that you obtain it.
4. No blood test required.

FOR QUESTIONS OR FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING MARRIAGE OR CIVIL UNION LICENSES, CALL THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY CLERK’S VITAL RECORDS OFFICE AT (815) 319-4250.

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