

Who may marry

Any person who is at least 18 years of age may marry. No person under 16 years of age may marry. Any person who is 16 or 17 years of age may marry with the written consent of their parents or legal guardians (not required for a widowed or divorced person). A special consent form is available for this purpose from your local Municipal Office.

If any person whose consent is required is unavailable or refuses to consent, an application may be made to a judge to dispense with consent.

A person whose previous marriage has been dissolved or annulled will require:

- If the marriage was dissolved or annulled in Canada, the original or court-certified copy of the final decree, judgment or certificate of divorce dissolving or annulling the marriage; or
- If the marriage was dissolved or annulled outside of Canada, the authorization of the Minister of Government and Consumer Services. This requirement is explained in more detail below; or
- Where the earlier marriage of one of the parties was terminated by the presumed death of a spouse, a court order declaring the death of the spouse. An issuer of Marriage Licences can provide more information upon request.

If you have been divorced outside of Canada – authorization requirements

An applicant whose former marriage was dissolved or annulled outside Canada must obtain authorization from the Minister of Government and Consumer Services before a marriage licence may be issued. To obtain this authorization, the applicants or a lawyer representing them, must submit the following to the Office of the Registrar General, PO Box 3000, 189 Red River Road, Thunder Bay ON P7B 5W0:

- A completed marriage licence application form signed by both applicants.
- An original, court certified copy or photocopy of the divorce decree or annulment (certified by the proper court officer in the jurisdiction the divorce/annulment was granted). If the decree is in a language other than English or French, include a translated copy together with an affidavit sworn by the translator.
- A Statement of Sole Responsibility for each divorce signed by both applicants and a witness. Blank statements are available from the local issuer of Marriage Licences or online at ServiceOntario.ca/GettingMarried.
- A legal opinion of an Ontario lawyer, addressed to both applicants, stating that the divorce would be recognized as valid in the province of Ontario and giving reasons why it should be recognized in Ontario. Your lawyer may request copy of a sample legal opinion letter from the Office of the Registrar General by calling 807-343-7492 or toll free in Ontario at 1-800-461-2156.

How to marry legally in Ontario

1. A Marriage Licence

A licence to marry may be obtained from the issuer of marriage licences at your local municipal clerk's office by completing a marriage licence application. The application must be signed by both applicants. Applications are available at ServiceOntario.ca/GettingMarried.

The issuer may require proof of age of either party. All minors must submit proof of age.

There are no requirements for couples regarding residency, pre-marital blood tests or medical certificates.

A marriage licence is valid for use anywhere in Ontario and expires 3 months after the date of issue. There is a fee charged for a marriage licence.

Or

2. The publication of banns

A marriage may be solemnized under the authority of the publication of banns where both parties to the proposed marriage regularly attend the same place or their own place of worship in Canada. No one may be married under the authority of the publication of banns if there was a previous marriage (dissolved or annulled). Further information concerning marriage under the authority of the publication of banns may be obtained from a person who is registered under the *Marriage Act* to perform religious marriages in Ontario.

Who can legally perform a marriage in Ontario?

A marriage ceremony in Ontario may be performed by:

- A person who is registered under the *Marriage Act* to perform religious marriages in Ontario.
- A person who is registered under the *Marriage Act* to perform marriages in Ontario according to the customs and traditions of a band, First Nation, Métis or Inuit organization or community or Indigenous entity.
- A judge, Ontario associate judge, or Ontario justice of the peace.
- A municipal clerk and/or their delegate authorized to perform civil marriage ceremonies.

Finding an Officiant

- Visit ServiceOntario.ca/GettingMarried for a list of marriage officiants registered to perform marriages in Ontario.
- Names of judges, Ontario associate judges, and Ontario justices of the peace available to perform civil marriage services may be available from local court offices and municipal offices.
- Contact your local municipal clerk's office to find out if they offer civil marriage services.