TOWN OF WESTMINSTER
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK
Ellen M. Sheehan

How to Obtain a Marriage License

In order to obtain a marriage license, both parties must appear together to fill out the **Intention of Marriage** at any Town Clerk's Office in Massachusetts

The Marriage License is valid for sixty (60) days. There is a three-day waiting period. (Note: Couples marrying on a Saturday must apply by Tuesday of the week of the ceremony to have a license issued on Friday before the wedding.) If you require a waiver of the 3 day waiting period, the couple may file a petition for Marriage without Delay at the District Court in Gardner.

The fee in Westminster is $25.00

There is no requirement for a blood test for marriage in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

You may be asked to show evidence of the state where you permanently reside (Driver's License preferred). Impediments to marriage are determined by the state of residence for each of the parties.

Age Requirement - A Massachusetts resident may marry if he or she is 18 years of age or older. A birth certificate may be required to show proof of age. If one or both parties are under 18, a court order from the district court in Gardner must be obtained BEFORE the Intention of Marriage can be filed.

Divorced Applicants do not need to show evidence of prior marriage dissolution. However it is important that an individual who has been divorced be certain that his/her divorce is absolute. In Massachusetts, a divorce does not become absolute until 90 days after the divorce nisi has been granted.

Massachusetts does not require that **witnesses** be present at your ceremony.

The Officiant is responsible for completing and signing the original license and returning it to the clerk of the town where the license was issued. The officiant may be a member of the clergy, justice of the peace, or a one-day solemnizer.

If the officiant is an **out-of-state clergy member,** the clergyperson must obtain a Certificate of Authorization from the Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth prior to the ceremony. This certificate is attached to the license and returned to the town clerk.

For additional Information please contact the Town Clerk's Office 978-874-7406.