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## Marriage License Information

**A couple who intends to be married in Illinois must apply in person** for a marriage license in the county where the marriage ceremony will be performed. A couple who intends to have their marriage ceremony in DeKalb County must apply for the license in the DeKalb County Clerk's office. There is no residency requirement for out-of-state applicants. The application for a marriage license must be signed by both parties in the presence of the County Clerk. A representative cannot apply for the license on behalf of the couple.

**The County Clerk's office does not provide an interpreter for the marriage application process.** Couples will need to provide their own interpreter that is at least 18 years of age or older (with ID) if one or both of the marriage applicants does not speak fluent English.

**The process to complete a marriage license takes about 20 minutes and the cost for the license is \$35.** Individuals must provide identification and be at least 18 years of age or older to marry without parental consent. Required application data includes parent names, addresses and places of birth. An appointment is not needed to apply for a marriage license however, it is recommended that the couple complete the application ahead of their visit to the DeKalb County Clerk's office. The PDF fillable application can be printed via our webpage @ [www.dekalbcounty.org](http://www.dekalbcounty.org). Office hours for the County Clerk are 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday.

**A license to marry becomes effective one day after the date of issuance, so the license must be purchased at least one day in advance of the marriage ceremony.** A couple wishing to be married by a judge must contact the DeKalb County Courthouse at (815) 895-7160 to make an appointment.

**The marriage license will expire 60 days after it becomes effective.** If the license expires, it is no longer valid and must be returned to the DeKalb County Clerk's office. If the couple still intends to be married, they will need to return to the DeKalb County Clerk's office to reapply and obtain a new marriage license.

**The individual that performs the marriage ceremony must complete the bottom portion of the license and return it to the DeKalb County Clerk's office within 10 days of the ceremony** in order for the marriage to be properly recorded. Once recorded, a certified copy of the marriage license will be available for purchase. The cost of a certified copy of the marriage license is \$15.00. Additional copies of the same record are \$5.00 each.

For additional information, please contact our office at (815) 895-7149, or visit the County Clerk & Recorder page online at [www.dekalbcounty.org](http://www.dekalbcounty.org).