

Applying for a Marriage License

A marriage license **MUST** be purchased **BEFORE** you get married. The couple must apply together at one of our offices.

Marriage license applications are available on our office kiosks. In addition, you may complete your application before appearing in person by visiting our website at www.sbcrecorder.com.

Requirements:

1. Current, government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license or passport
2. If either applicant has been divorced or has terminated a state registered domestic partnership within the last ninety (90) days, a copy of the final dissolution of marriage or termination of domestic partnership is required

License Fee:

\$100.00 Regular/Public Marriage License
\$111.00 Confidential/Non-Public Marriage License

Licenses are valid for a period of ninety (90) days from the date of issuance.

Recording a Marriage License

You may be married by a priest, rabbi, minister or other **authorized** officiant of your choice. After the ceremony, the officiant must return the license to the Clerk-Recorder's Office for recording.

Licenses are typically recorded two weeks after they are returned to our office. Copies may be purchased after recording is completed.

Certified Copies of the Marriage Certificate

Copy Fee:

The fee is \$15.00 per copy, walk in only. Additional fees may apply for mail or fax orders. Please check our website.

Copy requests can be made in person or by mail or fax. Copy applications are available to print from our website at www.sbcrecorder.com on the Forms web page.

Copy requests made by mail or fax require an acknowledgment, in addition to the sworn statement found on the application.

If you are using a marriage certificate to change your name, see the back page for information regarding the Name Equality Act of 2007.

Marriage Ceremonies

Ceremony Performance Fee:

- \$104.00 Santa Barbara Hall of Records premises
- \$104.00 Santa Maria indoor premises
- \$116.00 Santa Maria outside premises
- **\$116.00 Santa Barbara Courthouse premises/venues

**This fee does not include the use of the Courthouse Gardens or Mural Room facilities. It is your responsibility to make your reservation and pay the separate fees. We will ask to see a copy of your reservation before performing the ceremony. You must reserve the Courthouse Gardens or Mural Room separately through the Community Services Department at:

- Events@countyofsb.org or 805-568-2460, option 5
- Bmoore@sbparks.org or 805-568-2460, option 4

Santa Barbara ceremonies are performed on the 2nd floor of the Hall of Records or on the steps of the back entrance to the Hall of Records for a fee of \$104.00.

Our offices allow a maximum of 10 people. No flower petals, rice, confetti, or birdseed should be thrown on or outside the premises.

Spanish Ceremonies Available

Ceremony Reservations

Ceremonies are performed in our offices by appointment only. There are 2 ways to reserve your ceremony:

1. Come into the office in person, or
2. Go to the www.sbcrecorder.com Marriage Licenses and Ceremonies web page and click the link in the first paragraph. Your application and credit card authorization form must be faxed to: 805-568-2266.

There is a non-refundable \$23.00 reservation fee.

A marriage license must be obtained prior to a ceremony appointment. If you would like to purchase a license and ceremony at the same time, notify our staff when making your appointment.

Times:

Ceremony Only 30 minutes
License and Ceremony 60 minutes

There is a fifteen (15) minute grace period before the ceremony is cancelled. The couple will then need to reschedule another ceremony time.

Rescheduling of cancelled reservations may be subject to a fee.

Witness Fee

Regular marriage ceremonies are required to have at least one witness in addition to the officiant.

If you do not have a witness available, one may be provided for an additional fee of \$51.00. Please note: this service is **only** available if the ceremony is performed in one of our offices.

Would you like a friend or family member to perform your ceremony?

The Santa Barbara County Clerk-Recorder is designated as the Commissioner of Civil Marriages for Santa Barbara County. As the Commissioner of Civil Marriages, the Clerk-Recorder may appoint an individual as a Deputy Civil Marriage Commissioner in order to marry a specific couple.

Applicant Requirements:

The person wishing to be appointed as a Deputy Civil Marriage Commissioner for a Day must:

- ❖ Be 18 years or older
- ❖ **Appear in person to be sworn in and receive a short instructional course and paperwork**
- ❖ Show valid photo ID, such as a driver's license or passport---required to verify age and identity
- ❖ Pay the commission fee of \$51.00

Applicants must complete the application for Appointment of Deputy Marriage Commissioner for a Day, then appear in person at one of our offices during normal business hours to be sworn in.

Applications are available at our website www.sbcrecorder.com on the Marriage Licenses and Ceremonies web page. They are also available in paper form at one of our offices.

Office Hours

Applicants requesting license or deputy commissioner services should **arrive no later than 4:00pm** during normal business hours. Our offices are not open on Saturdays, Sundays, and certain holidays. Please visit our website to ensure service availability at www.sbcrecorder.com or call our office at 805-568-2250.

Santa Barbara County Clerk-Recorder

Locations & Ceremony Hours:

Santa Barbara **

Hall of Records
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

- ❖ Appointment **required** for ceremony
- ❖ Appointments in English or Spanish: 9:00am-12:00pm & 2:00pm-3:30pm, Monday-Friday
- ❖ No ceremonies during lunch hours
- ❖ Reservation Fax Line: (805) 568-2266

Santa Maria **

Betteravia Government Center
511 East Lakeside Parkway, Suite 115
Santa Maria, CA 93455

- ❖ Appointment **required** for ceremony
- ❖ Appointments in English or Spanish: 9:00am-12:00pm & 2:00pm-3:30pm, Monday-Friday
- ❖ No ceremonies during lunch hours
- ❖ Reservation Fax Line: (805) 568-2266

General Questions: (805) 568-2250

To set up an appointment by email, visit our website at www.sbcrecorder.com and click the link on the Marriage Licenses and Ceremonies web page.

**** Please check our website or call our office before arrival, as our hours of operation are subject to change.**

The Name Equality Act of 2007

The Name Equality Act allows one or both parties to a marriage, through the marriage license process, the option to change the **middle and/or last names** by which that party wishes to be known after solemnization of the marriage. Parties to the marriage **may not** change their **first name** on the marriage license.

Each party applying for a marriage license **may** choose to include on their marriage license the **new name** in the spaces provided on the marriage license application without intent to defraud. Changing one's name through this process can only be done at the time the marriage license is issued.

- ❖ Each party to the marriage **may** adopt any of the following **last names**:
 - The current last name of the other spouse.
 - The last name of either spouse given at birth.
 - A name combining into a single last name **all or a segment of the current last name or the last name of either spouse given at birth.**
 - A combination of last names.
- ❖ Each party to the marriage **may** adopt any of the following **middle names**:
 - The current last name of either spouse
 - The last name of either spouse given at birth
 - A combination of the current middle name and the current last name of the person or spouse.
 - A combination of the current middle name and the birth last name of the person or spouse.

Persons who have legal concerns or questions regarding their decision to include/not include a new name on the marriage license should seek legal advice **before** purchasing the marriage license.

The marriage certificate is used by multiple agencies, each of which has different requirements regarding what documents are acceptable to change your name on their records following marriage. It is recommended that you contact these agencies to verify their requirements prior to applying for a marriage license.

Parties to the marriage **may not add or amend** this information after the marriage license has been issued.

The law does not allow someone to completely drop their existing middle name by using the marriage certificate. They must keep their middle name or change it.



Marriage License & Ceremony Guide

Joseph E. Holland

County Clerk, Recorder and Assessor
Registrar of Voters

Website: www.sbcrecorder.com

General questions: (805) 568-2250
Reservation Fax Line: (805) 568-2266

Main Office:

Hall of Records, 1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Mailing Address:

PO Box 159
Santa Barbara, CA 93102-0159