

Getting married? Here's what you need to know...

- **You need a marriage license FIRST.** Couples who have a ceremony performed without a license must seek a court order to establish their marriage or purchase a license and have another ceremony. A separate civil ceremony is NOT required if having a religious ceremony.
- **You may walk-in anytime between 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM to purchase a marriage license - NO APPOINTMENT IS NEEDED.**
 - **Both parties to the marriage must appear and bring valid photo identification:** Examples include a state issued ID or driver's license, passport, consulate, or military ID.
 - **Both parties to the marriage must be over the age of 18.** Please call the Madera County Clerk's office for information regarding marriages involving a minor.
 - **Licenses are valid for 90 days and cannot be extended or refunded.** Ceremony must take place within the State of California. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- **You must be able to provide the following information:**
 - **Both parties' full legal name.** If the name on your identification does not match the name listed on your application, you must bring in supporting documentation to verify the name (birth certificate, name change order, naturalization certificate, adoption, divorce decree, etc.).
 - **If either party has been previously married, you must be able to provide the reason and date the last marriage ended.** If either party has been divorced within the last 6 months, you must provide a copy of the divorce decree at the appointment.
 - **Both parties must provide the full legal name and places of birth of each parent** as listed on their birth, adoption, or court-order name change. Review your records and bring to your appointment if possible. Incorrect information may result in delays with DMV RealID and passport applications, require an amendment to be filed with the CDPH, or issues with Social Security Administration and/or other governmental agencies.
 - **Both parties must indicate if they will be changing their names once married.** You are not required to change your name when getting married, however, if you choose not to indicate a new name when the license is purchased and change your mind later a court order will be required to do so.
 - **All information provided must be true & correct. Any incorrect information will be corrected through the amendment process which may need to be done with the California Department of Public Health in Sacramento by mail.**

Please call (559) 675-7721 or email CountyClerkInfo@maderacounty.com with any questions or concerns.

**Refunds are NOT issued for licenses that are lost, destroyed, unused or expired.
Fee: \$50.00 - \$55.00 No Checks. (No \$100.00 bill please)**

Application for Marriage License

Please read before completing application

- When you sign the marriage application form, you are stating under penalty of perjury that the information you have provided is true and correct, that you are currently an unmarried couple, and that there is no legal objection to the marriage.
- The marriage license must be used within the State of California. Check the license to see what the requirements are for witnesses and solemnization.
- Marriage licenses are valid for 90 days from the date of issuance. You must be married on or after the issuance date, and on or before the expiration date of the license. Licenses not used within this timeframe are void.
- The appropriate fee may be paid in cash or by debit/credit card (additional service fee applies). **\$100.00 bills will not be accepted.**
- No refunds are given for marriage licenses purchased in error.
- Please review the types of marriage licenses that you may apply for, certain restrictions apply:

Public License and Certificate of Marriage (VS 117) — This is the standard type of marriage license. This type of marriage license requires the signature of at least one witness and one person solemnizing the marriage.

Confidential License and Certificate of Marriage (VS 123) — Confidential marriage licenses may only be issued to unmarried parties who are at least 18 years old and have been living together as spouses. Since the confidential marriage license requires the signature of a marriage officiant, they are not available to members of religious denominations not having clergy. Certified copies of the marriage license and certificate may only be issued to the couple. Confidential marriage licenses may not be available in all counties. The signatures of the parties in fields 23 and 24 affirm that they meet the requirements to receive a confidential marriage license.

License and Certificate of Marriage for Denominations Not Having Clergy (VS 115) — This type of license is used for the recording of marriages for members of religious societies or denominations that do not have clergy for the purpose of solemnizing a marriage.

License and Certificate of Declaration of Marriage (VS 116) — This type of license is used for the recording of a marriage that was licensed and occurred over one year ago; however, no official record exists.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE NAME EQUALITY ACT OF 2007

The Name Equality Act of 2007 (Assembly Bill 102, Chapter 567, Statutes of 2007) allows one or both applicants to a California marriage to elect to change the middle or last names by which each party wishes to be known after they are married by entering the new name in fields 29A thru 30C, as applicable, on the marriage license application. This must be done **at the time the applicants are applying for the marriage license.**

Each party to the marriage may adopt any of the following **last names** (Family Code Section 306.5(b)(2)):

- Current last name of the other spouse
- 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** (Family Code Section 306.5(b)(3)):

- Current last name of either spouse
- 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 last name given at birth of the person or spouse

NOTE: Parties to the marriage **may not** change their **first name** on the marriage license.

Parties to the marriage are not required to change their name, nor, are they required to have the same name.

If one or both parties do not wish to identify a new name on the marriage license, the fields on the marriage license will be completed using two single dashes. You may not change the information on the marriage license after it has been issued by the County Clerk, unless there is a clerical error.

The marriage certificate is used by multiple local, state, federal and private agencies, each of which have 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 your marriage license.**

NOTE: County Clerk staff cannot provide you information on how to complete the marriage license application as it relates to the entry of a new name or retention of your former name on the marriage license application. For your protection, if you have **any** questions regarding whether you should or should not list your new name on the marriage license application, and/or how the Name Equality Act of 2007 may affect you, please consult with a private attorney **prior to applying for your marriage license.**

COMPLETE ENTIRE APPLICATION

License Type (Select One): **Public** **Confidential** **Non-Clergy** **Declaration**

EMAIL: Phone Number:

NEITHER - LEAVE
BLANK

1A. First Name		1B. Middle Name	
1C. Current Last Name		1D. Last Name at Birth (if different than box 1C.)	
2. Date of Birth	3. Birthplace (U.S. State or Foreign Country)	4. # of Previous Marriages or State Registered Domestic Partnerships	<input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
5A. Last Marriage/State Registered Domestic Partnership ended by: (check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Death <input type="checkbox"/> Dissolution (Divorce) <input type="checkbox"/> Annulment <input type="checkbox"/> Terminated SRDP		5B. Date ended: (mm/dd/yyyy)	
6. Street Address		7. City	8. State/Country
			9. Zip Code
10A. Full Birth Name of Father/Parent (First, Middle, Last)		10B. Birthplace (U.S. State or Foreign Country)	
11A. Full Birth Name of Mother/Parent (First, Middle, Last)		11B. Birthplace (U.S. State or Foreign Country)	

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FIRST PERSON DATA

Email: Phone Number:

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12A. First Name		12B. Middle Name	
12C. Current Last Name		12D. Last Name at Birth (if different than box 12C.)	
13. Date of Birth	14. Birthplace (U.S. State or Foreign Country)	15. # of Previous Marriages or State Registered Domestic Partnerships	<input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
16A. Last Marriage/State Registered Domestic Partnership ended by: (check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Death <input type="checkbox"/> Dissolution (Divorce) <input type="checkbox"/> Annulment <input type="checkbox"/> Terminated SRDP		16B. Date ended: (mm/dd/yyyy)	
17. Street Address		18. City	19. State/Country
			20. Zip Code
21A. Full Birth Name of Father/Parent (First, Middle, Last)		21B. Birthplace (U.S. State or Foreign Country)	
22A. Full Birth Name of Mother/Parent (First, Middle, Last)		22B. Birthplace (U.S. State or Foreign Country)	

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SECOND PERSON DATA

NEW NAMES, IF ANY

See Information on Reverse Outlining Options for Changing your Name.

29A. First – MUST BE SAME AS 1A	29B. NEW Middle Name	29C. NEW Last Name
30A. First – MUST BE SAME AS 12A	30B. NEW Middle Name	30C. NEW Last Name

We, the undersigned, declare under penalty of perjury that all the information above is true and correct to the best of our knowledge. We also declare that we have read and understood the information on the reverse side of this form.

First Person Signature: _____ **Second Person Signature:** _____