

How Incarcerated Individuals Can Get Married in Madera County

Facilities Covered

- **Madera County Jail**
- **Valley State Prison**
- **Central California Women's Facility**

Steps to Apply for a Marriage License

1. Application:

- The non-incarcerated person (Available Party) must apply in person.
- Schedule an appointment online at www.maderacounty.com.

Information Needed:

- Full legal names, dates of birth, and U.S. states (or countries) of birth for both parties.
- Number of previous marriages and the end date of the last marriage (with divorce order if applicable).
- Current or last known addresses of both parties.
- Full legal names of both parents of each party (including mother's maiden name).
- Desired new middle or last names for each party.

Additional Requirements:

- Photo ID (Driver's License, ID, Matricula, Passport).
- Supporting documents if the name on the ID doesn't match (e.g., Naturalization, Adoption Order).
- Birth Certificate if a Photo ID is not available.

Fees:

- \$50 payable to the Madera County Clerk.
- No refunds for unused, lost, or destroyed licenses.

2. Review at County Clerk's Office:

- Available Party reviews and signs the license.
- License sent to the correctional facility for incarcerated party's review and signature.
- Corrections can be made and may cause delays.

3. Pick Up License:

- Once signed, the license is picked up by the Available Party.
- Contact Marriage Coordinator to schedule the ceremony within 90 days of issuance.

4. After Ceremony:

- Officiant must return the completed license with at least one witness signature to the County Recorder within 10 days.
- Certified copies of the marriage certificate can be purchased for \$17 each.

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)	

BRIDE

GROOM

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)	

BRIDE

GROOM

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: _____

If your fiancé is incarcerated, you must provide the Madera County Clerk with the following information:

Name of the Facility:

Inmate ID #:

Your daytime phone number:

Your email:

You will be notified when the license has been signed and is ready to be picked up. If your license is not picked up before the expiration date or you are unable to have your ceremony before the date of expiration, the Madera County Clerk will not be held responsible for any losses incurred.