



THE CLERK OF THE COURT YOUR PUBLIC TRUSTEE

AUGUST 2007 – OBTAINING A MARRIAGE LICENSE

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Pinellas County
<http://www.pinellasclerk.org>

Q. *I just got engaged and I want to start planning my wedding. I have so many questions about the requirements for obtaining a marriage license in Florida...do we need blood tests? Can I pick up the marriage license by myself or does my fiancé need to be there with me? Is there a waiting period? Who can legally perform the ceremony?*

A. Congratulations on your engagement. The Clerk of the Circuit Court acts as an agent for the State of Florida for issuing licenses per Florida Statute 741. The Marriage License department at the Pinellas County Clerk's Office can answer most of your questions about applying for and purchasing your marriage license.

If you are getting married in the State of Florida, you may apply for a marriage license in any county within the State. With that license you may be married in any county within the State. However, you must return the completed marriage license to the Clerk's Office in the county where it was issued.

The basic requirements for State of Florida you will need to know when applying for your marriage license are:

- Florida residents have a required three (3) day waiting period unless they have satisfied the Premarital Preparation Course* requirements (There is no waiting period for non-Florida residents.);
- Blood tests are NOT required;
- The legal age to apply for a marriage license is eighteen (18);
- Both parties of the intended marriage must come into the Clerk's Office with valid identification; each must fill out his or her section of a marriage license application, each must sign a statement verifying they have read Florida's "Family Law Handbook."* If either person was previously married, he or she must provide the legal termination date of the last marriage.

*For your convenience, Premarital Preparation Course information, the Florida Bar's "Family Law Handbook," license fees and the marriage license application forms all are available on my website, <http://www.pinellasclerk.org>. Also, our prerecorded marriage license information line is available 24 hours a day at 727-464-4700.

As a public service, our Deputy Clerks are authorized to perform ceremonies during normal working hours. The fee for this service is set by Florida Statute and is subject to change as a result of legislative action. Refer to a current "Schedule of Service Charges" available in any Pinellas County Clerk's Office or online at <http://www.pinellasclerk.org>, for the applicable fee.