

## MARRIAGE LICENSES - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### ***What is the difference between a Marriage License and a Marriage Certificate?***

A Marriage License is the legal document which one must have to get married. A Marriage Certificate is the legal document that proves that you have been married.

### ***What are the requirements for entering into a marriage?***

Anyone at least 18 years of age or older can get married so long as they are not a party to another civil union, domestic partnership or marriage in this state or recognized by this state.

### ***How do I obtain a Marriage License?***

The first step is to select an Officiant. An Officiant is the person who performs the actual marriage ceremony. Once you have confirmed both the Officiant and the date of the ceremony, you **must schedule an appointment** with the Town's Clerk's Office to apply for your Marriage License. You should **book your appointment at least two (2) weeks in advance of your ceremony**.

### ***How long is a Marriage License valid?***

Marriage Licenses, once they are issued, are only valid for thirty (30) days and you must get married by an Officiant within that time frame so you must plan accordingly.

### ***Do I have to apply for the Marriage License in person?***

Yes. You, your partner and one (1) witness must be present in the Town's Clerk's Office to apply.

### ***I don't live in New Jersey and neither does my partner. Can we still apply for a Marriage License in Mine Hill?***

Yes, but if neither applicant lives in New Jersey, then you must get married in Mine Hill.

### ***Both my partner and I are New Jersey residents but neither of us lives in Mine Hill. Can we apply for a Marriage License in Mine Hill?***

No. New Jersey residents can only apply for a Marriage License in the municipality where either party resides.

### ***I live in Mine Hill but my partner doesn't. Can we apply for a Marriage License in Mine Hill? If so, must we get married in Mine Hill?***

Yes. You can apply for a Marriage License in the New Jersey municipality where either party resides. Once you are issued a Marriage License in Mine Hill, the license is valid throughout the State so while you need not get married in Mine Hill, you must get married somewhere in New Jersey; A Marriage License issued by Mine Hill will not be valid in any other State.

### ***Can the Town Clerk marry us?***

No. According to State law, only certain public officials such as judges and religious ministers are legally permitted to serve as Officiants. The Town Clerk only issues Marriage Licenses and Marriage Certificates.

***I already have an Officiant. He is a minister from my church. Does he have to register with the Town's Clerk's Office in order to marry me?***

No. The City will not ask for proof that the Officiant you have chosen is qualified to perform marriages.

***My Officiant was not ordained in New Jersey and he is the pastor of a church located in another state. Must the Officiant be based in New Jersey in order to marry me?***

No. Anyone qualified to perform marriages in any other jurisdiction is qualified to perform marriages in New Jersey. But remember: You must get married in New Jersey and if neither you nor your partner are New Jersey residents but were granted a Marriage License by Mine Hill, then you must get married in Mine Hill.

***I've selected an Officiant and confirmed a date for my marriage ceremony. How do I schedule a Marriage License appointment?***

Simply send an email to [clerk@minehill.com](mailto:clerk@minehill.com) at least two (2) weeks in advance of your ceremony and include in the body of your email the following information:

- Your full name and address;
- The full name and address of your partner;
- The date of the marriage ceremony;
- The location of the marriage ceremony;
- The name and title of the Officiant, i.e., "Reverend" "Judge" "Rabbi" "Imam";
- The full name of the person who will witness your application; and
- A phone number where you can be reached

We will call or email you to schedule your appointment.

If you need assistance you may also dial 862-437-1190, Monday through Friday, from 9 AM until 4:30 PM.

***I've scheduled an appointment with the Town's Clerk's Office to apply for my Marriage License. What will my partner and I need to bring to the appointment?***

1. Both you and your partner must bring a valid government-issued photo I.D. such as a driver's license, passport or State/Federal I.D. PLEASE NOTE: An expired I.D. is not considered valid and any identification documents printed in a foreign language must be accompanied by a certified English translation.
2. Proof of Mine Hill residency by at least one (1) of the applicants, (if your government-issued photo I.D. doesn't indicate a Mine Hill address). A utility bill, bank statement or residential lease is sufficient to provide proof of residency. PLEASE NOTE: As noted previously, two non-New Jersey residents may obtain a Mine Hill Marriage License but the marriage ceremony must take place in Mine Hill in order to be valid.
3. One (1) witness, who is 18 years of age or older. The witness must also present a government-issued photo I.D. The witness need not be a resident of Mine Hill or of New Jersey.
4. A completed Marriage License Application Form, known as a Reg-77 Form. You can download and fill out the Reg-77 Form online by clicking on this link: <https://www.nj.gov/health/forms/reg-77.docx> If you cannot print the Reg-77 prior to your appointment, one will be provided to you by the Clerk's Office. PLEASE NOTE: If you

have completed the Reg-77 Form prior to your appointment, do not sign it. It must be signed in the presence of the issuing authority while under oath.

5. The \$28 application fee

PLEASE NOTE: Before leaving the Clerk's Office, you and your partner will both be given an opportunity to review the Marriage License in order to confirm that all the information on the Marriage License is true and spelled correctly. If, after having left the Town's Clerk's Office, you and your partner subsequently discover that any of the information provided on the Marriage License is incorrect or spelled incorrectly, you will have to pay a fee for the correction, you will have to produce additional Vital Records such as a Birth Certificate to process the correction, and the finalization of your marital status will be delayed. It is your responsibility to ensure that all the information on the Marriage License is both factually correct and spelled correctly.

***Is there a waiting period after we complete the application before we can get the License and go to get married?***

Yes. There is a 72-hour waiting period before the Marriage License can be issued. The waiting period begins when the application is filed in the Town's Clerk's Office. The Marriage License application is valid for six (6) months from the date it is filed.

After the 72-hour waiting period has expired, you may arrange to pick up your Marriage License from the Town's Clerk's Office. Once you pick up the License you must use it within thirty (30) days. If the License expires before being used, you must complete a new application and pay another \$28 fee.

***Do I need to have witnesses for the actual marriage ceremony itself?***

Yes. You must have two (2) witnesses. The Officiant cannot serve as a witness.

***Once the marriage ceremony is over, and the Officiant and both witnesses have signed the Marriage License, where do I bring it?***

You must file both white copies of the Marriage License with the city or town where the ceremony took place. For example, if you obtained your Marriage License in Mine Hill, but your marriage ceremony took place in Wharton, then you must file it in Wharton. Only submit the white copies; you should retain the pink copy for your records. The blue copy is for the Officiant's records.

***Mine Hill issued my Marriage License but my marriage ceremony took place in Wharton. How do I obtain my Marriage Certificate?***

You must apply to the city or town where your marriage ceremony took place; in this example, it would be Wharton. PLEASE NOTE: Marriage Certificates are not provided automatically; you must request them separately and pay the corresponding fee.

***I was married in Mine Hill. How do I obtain my Marriage Certificate?***

You must complete an Application for a Certified Copy of a Vital Record, also known as the REG 37A Form which the Municipal Clerk will provide upon request.

Simply complete the Reg 37A Form, and email it to [clerk@minehill.com](mailto:clerk@minehill.com) or drop it off in the drop box at Town Hall. Please include your phone number and the Clerk will reach out to you to set up and appointment.

***Now that I am married, I want to take my spouse's last name. Do I apply to the Clerk's Office to change my name?***

No. The Town's Clerk's Office does not process name changes. Name changes are processed by the Social Security Administration. Go to [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) or dial 1-800-772-1213; TTY 1-800-325-0778.

If you are a New Jersey resident, you can also process your name change through the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (NJMVC). Name change applications processed by the NJMVC cannot be completed through the mail; you must visit a Motor Vehicle Agency branch office and present a Marriage Certificate or Civil Union Certificate in order to process the change. If you have any questions, you should contact the NJMVC directly by visiting [www.njmvc.gov](http://www.njmvc.gov) or call the MVC's Customer Support Line at (609) 292-6500 weekdays (except holidays) from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

***My partner and I are already married in another country. Do we have the option to get re-married here?***

Yes. For individuals who are currently married in New Jersey or who are married in another state or country, the option exists to reaffirm your relationship/vows by registering a remarriage.

To apply for a remarriage, the couple must provide proof of their existing marriage, meet the requirements for entering into a marriage in New Jersey and follow the guidelines above to completing the license application. The process for a remarriage license is the same as for the marriage license, except that the remarriage license must be accompanied by the proof of existing marriage. There is no waiting period before the license is issued.

For more information on New Jersey's marriage regulations check out: <https://www.nj.gov/health/vital/registration-vital/marriage-licenses/>