



How to Get Your South Carolina Marriage License

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You said yes to the dress.

You sampled the cake.

You found the location.

Now there's one little detail left.

How do you get the marriage license?

Traditionally, South Carolina has been an easy state in which to apply for a marriage license. Quick weddings have always been a Myrtle Beach staple, but over the years, the “destination elopement” has given way to the full-blown destination wedding. Even if you work with a professional wedding planner, there are dozens details to think about.

With all there is to do to pull together this special day, you don't want to spend a week or more at the last minute waiting for your marriage license. So, good news, you don't have to. You can have your license in hand 24 hours after you apply, but no matter what, **you must have the license before** the ceremony.

SO ...

How do you apply? How much does it cost?

What documents do you need to have?

This guide will give you all that information and more. Here you'll find the details for obtaining your marriage license in the three



adjoining counties along the Grand Strand that are considered the Myrtle Beach Metropolitan Area; Horry County and Georgetown County in South Carolina, and Brunswick County in North Carolina.

You can get your South Carolina marriage license anywhere in the state and be married anywhere in the state. However, if you are getting married on any of the Brunswick Islands (Sunset Beach, Ocean Isle Beach, Holden Beach, Oak Island, Caswell Beach, or Bald Head Island) you'll need a North Carolina marriage license.

A note here on same-sex marriages, they are lawful in South Carolina, but not in North Carolina. So, if you are a LGBT couple wishing to be married at the beach, you'll need to get your license and have your wedding in South Carolina.

In South Carolina, marriage licenses are issued by the Probate Court in each county. In North Carolina, marriage licenses are issued by the Register of Deeds in each county.

Applying for a South Carolina Marriage License in Horry County

Both applicants must appear in person

No proof of age is required if an applicant is 25 years of age or older.

No blood test is required.



There is a 24-hour waiting period to process the license.

Fees are paid in cash or money order only as follows:

\$50 cash for all Horry County residents

\$75 cash for South Carolina state residents of other counties

\$100 cash or money order for out-of-state residents

Requirements for application:

Social Security Card

Both applicants must appear in person and have with them their social security card. If you are not a U. S. citizen, bring your alien identification card (green card) as well.

Proof of Age

Applicants over age 18 but under age 25 must submit a copy of **one** of the following documents as evidence of the applicant's age:

- Driver's license
- Military identification card
- Selective service identification card
- Passport or visa
- Certified copy of birth certificate

Applicants under age 18

If an applicant is under the age of 18, parental consent is required. This must be done on a written consent form signed by at least one of the parents or legal guardians of the minor. The form must be signed by the parent or legal guardian in the presence of a Notary Public, and if the form is signed in a state other than South Carolina, the Notary Public must affix his or her seal to the form.



In addition to the notarized consent form, applicants under the age of 18 must submit either a certified copy of the applicant's birth certificate or a hospital or baptismal certificate that has been issued and dated within one year after the applicant's birth. These documents must not have any erasures or other alterations.

Both applicants must be at least 16 years of age.

The only exception to the age requirement is if the woman is pregnant, in which case special instructions must be obtained from the Probate Court prior to submitting an application. Contact the court at (843) 915-5370 for more information.

Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Horry County Probate Court
Government & Justice Center
1301 2nd Avenue
Conway, South Carolina 29526
(843) 915-5370

After the bridegroom, the next most important thing is the marriage license.



Applying for a South Carolina Marriage License in Georgetown County

If you're applying in Georgetown County, requirements are pretty much the same as in Horry County with these exceptions.

Applicants younger than age 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Call the Probate Court for additional information.

The fee is \$40 in cash, check, or money order - **No Credit or Debit Cards Accepted**

Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Georgetown County Probate Court
Georgetown County Judicial Center
401 Cleland Street, Room 140
Georgetown, South Carolina 29440
(843) 545-3274

Applying for a North Carolina Marriage License in Brunswick County

If you plan to say "I Do" on any of the islands north of the state line, you'll need a North Carolina marriage license. You may obtain your license in the office of the Register of Deeds in any county in the state of North Carolina and use it anywhere in the state of North Carolina. Once issued, the license is good for 60 days.



There is no waiting period for a North Carolina marriage license.

Requirements for Application:

Marriage Application Form

Complete a [marriage application form](#) either in person in the office or online.

If applying in person, both applicants must appear in the Register's office between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm, Monday thru Friday to make the application. No appointment is necessary. The office is not open on holidays. Click here for a list of the [holidays when the office is closed](#).

Required Documents

Both applicants must present their Social Security number **and** one of the following:

Driver's license

Military identification card

Passport

Other valid government-issued photo ID

Applicants under age 18

Applicants under the age of 18 must contact the vital records office at (910) 253-2430 for additional requirements.

Other Stipulations

If a divorce was finalized within the sixty days of the application, the original or a certified copy of the decree is required.



If a social security number has never been issued, the applicant must sign an affidavit to that effect.

After the ceremony, the completed license must be returned to the Register of Deeds office within 10 days of the ceremony.



Beach weddings are casual and relaxed, so sometimes the bride can get a little marriage license signing help from the flower girl.

The fee for a marriage license in Brunswick County is \$60 paid by cash, certified check or money order - **No Personal Checks, Credit or Debit Cards Accepted.**

Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Office of the Register of Deeds
Brunswick County Government Complex
Building I, 75 Courthouse Drive
Bolivia, North Carolina 28422
(910) 253-2690

If you have further questions about marriage license requirements, please contact one of the offices listed and someone will be happy to help you.

Best Wishes!

