



**OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
NYC MARRIAGE BUREAU**

**CORONAVIRUS – COVID 19 TEMPORARY CLOSURE
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

When will the Marriage Bureau reopen?

Given the current conditions it is difficult to accurately predict the date of reopening. Once the New York State PAUSE order is lifted, we will begin to plan reopening which will require updated social distancing protocols to protect the health and safety of our employees and visitors.

When can I obtain a marriage license or register a domestic partnership?

Regrettably with the closure of our offices it is not possible at the present time to obtain a marriage license or register a domestic partnership. Even if you submitted your information using our online application, both parties must visit the office in person to complete the process. By law, marriage licenses and domestic partnerships must be issued in person in order to verify identification, review previous marriage information and make payment. Therefore, these services are only available when the office reopens.

We have our marriage license already. What do we do now?

Generally, a marriage license expires 60 days after issuance. If you can wait for the office to reopen, we will be happy to conduct your marriage ceremony at the Marriage Bureau. If you do not wish to wait, you can seek a marriage officiant in your community who is willing to perform the ceremony. For marriage ceremonies in NYC the marriage officiant must be registered with the City Clerk. You should ask your chosen marriage officiant if he or she is registered before you use the services of the marriage officiant. If you make such arrangements, please maintain social distancing at all times during the ceremony.

We had a marriage ceremony by a marriage officiant in our community, should we mail our completed marriage license to your office?

We are attempting to process as many marriage licenses received by mail as we can with limited staff working remotely. However, if you can wait for your marriage certificate, we will be happy to do same day processing for you or your spouse in person after we reopen.

Can a marriage officiant conduct the ceremony virtually, by using SKYPE, ZOOM, or any other video conferencing electronic format?

NO. New York State law requires that the marriage officiant must be physically present with the parties to the marriage and the witness or witnesses.

I submitted a by-mail marriage record request before you closed the office, when will I receive a response?

We will make every effort to answer all by mail record requests within four to six weeks.

I need a certified copy of my marriage certificate to obtain an enhanced driver license. How do I obtain a marriage certificate?

Please follow directions found here: <https://www.cityclerk.nyc.gov/content/marriage-records>

I am angry and frustrated that I can't get married or obtain a domestic partnership now what can I do?

We understand your frustration. This is the first time in recent history that we have been closed to the public for any long period of time. In the aftermath of the attacks on September 11, 2001 and Superstorm Sandy, other offices of the City Clerk were able to reopen while the Manhattan office was closed for a short period of time. We opened the Manhattan office after Superstorm Sandy when the power was still out in Manhattan (below Canal Street) and conducted marriage ceremonies by candlelight for people who already obtained their marriage licenses. We regret that we cannot open any of our doors at present.

The magnitude of the COVID-19 pandemic requires that we comply with all changes to the law that require nonessential personnel to stay home. Currently no marriage bureau in New York State is open to the public. We are not aware of any other open marriage bureau in the country at this time. We ask your patience and understanding while we await the opportunity to reopen. We hope that you remain safe and healthy during this time.

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