



**OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
MARRIAGE BUREAU**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

(Updated June 25, 2021)

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**1. When will the Marriage Bureau reopen for walk-in visits?**

The Office of the City Clerk does not permit unscheduled walk-in visits at this time. The Manhattan office is open **by appointment only** for domestic partnership registration, commissioner of deeds application and certificates of non-impediment application. The Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island offices remain closed.

Please submit a request for an appointment here for domestic partnership registration, commissioner of deeds application and certificates of non-impediment application only:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/nyc-resources/contact-cityclerk.page>.

We are currently accepting the following transactions **by mail only**:

- Marriage certificates (including extended certificates for foreign use, typically used when an apostille is required)
- Amendments to marriage records
- Marriage officiant registration
- Oaths of office
- Commissioners of deeds renewals
- Requests for transcripts of City Council proceedings
- Lobbying Bureau transactions

Please allow 4-6 weeks for the processing of incoming mail requests.

## *Marriage Licenses*

### **2. Can we get a marriage license online? How does that work?**

Yes. Marriage licenses will continue to be issued exclusively on the Project Cupid platform. Please visit [nyc.gov/cupid](https://nyc.gov/cupid) to begin the process.

### **3. What is the process to obtain a marriage license online through Project Cupid?**

To obtain a marriage license, first complete an online marriage application request on the [City Clerk's website](#) and obtain a confirmation number. Then, log onto the Project Cupid website to upload your ID, verify each applicant's identity, pay a \$35 license fee, and schedule your appointment for a future date with the City Clerk.

On the day of your scheduled appointment, you will need to: download the Microsoft TEAMS app using a mobile phone, computer, tablet or other similar device and log onto the Project Cupid website. Then, click the link to enter a videoconference with the assigned clerk to complete your marriage license application and receive a digital copy of your marriage license.

### **4. Who can apply to get a marriage license through Project Cupid ?**

Any couple that is physically located in the State of New York.

### **5. Do both of us have to be physically in the same location for a virtual appointment with the City Clerk?**

Yes. Both spouses must be together physically for their appointment.

### **6. We obtained our marriage license before you closed your office in March, 2020. Do we need to get a new marriage license?**

No. All couples who have an unused marriage license with an expiration date that occurs on or after March 7, 2020 or was obtained during the emergency period can marry within 60 days following the end of the emergency period. **The emergency period ended on June 24, 2021.** Any marriage license which was obtained during the emergency period, March 7, 2020 through June 24, 2021, will be valid through August 23, 2021.

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## *Marriage Ceremonies*

### **7. How can I obtain a marriage ceremony through the Clerk's office?**

Marriage ceremonies are temporarily unavailable in our office.

### **8. I want to have a virtual marriage ceremony. Is that possible?**

No. Effective June 25, 2021, marriage ceremonies using videoconference technology are no longer permitted. On June 25, 2021, Governor Cuomo rescinded Executive Orders 202 through 202.111 and 205 through 205.3 relating to the COVID-19 State of Emergency. As a result, the City Clerk's Office will not process marriage licenses for virtual ceremonies that were performed by private officiants after June 25, 2021. Marriage ceremonies performed by private officiants after June 25, 2021, must be conducted in person.

### **9. How can we have a private marriage ceremony?**

You can have a ceremony by arranging a private marriage ceremony. Many couples find a marriage officiant through an internet search.

Unfortunately, we cannot assist in arranging a private marriage ceremony. As a government agency we cannot provide recommendations for private marriage officiants.

Persons permitted to officiate a marriage ceremony in the State of New York include: (1) clergy members or ministers of any religion, including reverends, pastors, priests, rabbis, imams, deacons, and cantors; (2) Federal, State and local judges or justices; (3) current members of the State Senate and Assembly; and (4) other officials ([see this website for more information](#)).

### **10. We received our marriage license before the Marriage Bureau closed in March 2020, and our marriage ceremony was performed (either in person or virtually) by a private marriage officiant outside your office. Should we mail our original hard copy of the completed marriage license to your office?**

No. Please scan and email a copy of the completed marriage license to [VMLReturns@cityclerk.nyc.gov](mailto:VMLReturns@cityclerk.nyc.gov) for processing. Please store the original completed marriage license in a place of safekeeping.

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## *Request for Marriage Records*

### **11. I submitted a mail request for marriage records. When will I receive a response?**

We are making every effort to respond within 4 to 6 weeks to all record requests received by mail. We are currently only accepting record requests **by mail**.

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

Please be aware that the deadline to obtain an enhanced driver license has been extended by the DHS to May 3, 2023.

Please complete the [Mail Request for Marriage Records](#) form and check off the box for the “short” form and enclose a photocopy of your [proper identification](#) and a money order for \$15 (\$10 for each additional copy) payable to “The City Clerk.” Mail to Office of the City Clerk, 141 Worth Street, New York, NY 10013, attention: Record Room. For more information: <https://www.cityclerk.nyc.gov/content/marriage-records>.

### **13. Can I use the marriage certificate I received right after my ceremony in the mail for an apostille?**

No. To obtain an apostille, you must order a marriage certificate for foreign use (an Extended Certificate) using the [Mail Request for Marriage Records](#) form. Please enclose a photocopy of your [proper identification](#) and a money order for \$35 (\$30 for each additional copy) payable to “The City Clerk” and mail to Office of the City Clerk, 141 Worth Street, New York, NY 10013, attention: Record Room.

Remember you will need to take this marriage certificate to the County Clerk for authentication and then to the State Department of New York State where the apostille will be attached.

### **14. I lost my marriage certificate and need a new copy for a government agency such as the DMV, social security, the US passport office, or DHS. What do I order and how much is the fee?**

Use the [Mail Request for Marriage Records](#) form and check off the box for the “short” form and enclose a photocopy of your [proper identification](#) and a money order for \$15 (\$10 for each additional copy) payable to “The City Clerk.” Mail to the Office of the City Clerk, 141 Worth Street, New York, NY 10013, attention: Record Room.

## *Domestic Partnerships and Certificates of Non-Impediment*

### **15. Can I register a domestic partnership or obtain a certificate of non-impediment virtually?**

No. Applicants for domestic partnership registration and certificates of non-impediment may send an email to request a reservation for an office visit in the Manhattan office only.

**No walk-in visits will be permitted.** If you wish to request an appointment for a domestic partnership registration or a certificate of non-impediment, you can submit a request for an appointment here:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/nyc-resources/contact-cityclerk.page>.

## *Marriage Officiant Registration*

### **16. Can I register as a marriage officiant by mail?**

Yes. Please read this registration of marriage officiant section of our website (<https://www.cityclerk.nyc.gov/content/marriage-officiant-registration>) and print out the application carefully following instructions pertaining to your denomination. If you are concerned about filing your registration on time for the marriage ceremony you plan to officiate, you may send your request by Federal Express, UPS or Express Mail from the post office. You may insert a prepaid envelope to return your certificate of registration to you in an expedited fashion. Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for processing.

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## *Commissioners of Deeds*

### **17. How can I apply to become a Commissioner of Deeds?**

We are accepting new applications for commissioners of deeds by appointment only in the Manhattan office. Please submit a request for an appointment here: <https://www1.nyc.gov/nyc-resources/contact-cityclerk.page>. For more information about how to qualify for Commissioner of Deeds, click [here](#).

### **18. How can I submit a request to renew my Commissioners of Deeds?**

We are accepting applications for renewals of commissioners of deeds by mail only. To request a renewal application, please email [COD\\_helpdesk@cityclerk.nyc.gov](mailto:COD_helpdesk@cityclerk.nyc.gov).

## *Amendments to Marriage Records*

### **19. How can I amend my marriage record?**

We are accepting applications for amendments to marriage records by mail only. Please download the application [here](#) and follow the instructions. For more information: <https://www.cityclerk.nyc.gov/content/amendments-to-marriage-records>