



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

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

(Updated July 22, 2020)

1. When will the Marriage Bureau reopen to the general public?

Unfortunately, the Office of the City Clerk remains closed to the general public. We are, however, now permitting applicants **only** for domestic partnership registration and certificates of non-impediment to make reservations for in person office visits. This will be available only in the Manhattan office.

Since the office remains closed to the general public **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, please submit a request for an appointment here: <https://www1.nyc.gov/nyc-resources/contact-cityclerk.page>.

Until it is safe to permit the gathering of large numbers of people in enclosed spaces, we will continue to provide marriage licenses virtually. Our temporary reservation-only policy will help us maintain social distancing while still providing needed services.

Marriage licenses will continue to be issued exclusively on the Project Cupid platform. Please visit nyc.gov/cupid to begin the process for a virtual marriage license appointment. Currently, marriage ceremonies are not available.

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

- Requests for marriage records
- Amendments to marriage records
- Marriage officiant registration
- Oaths of office
- Commissioners of deeds (renewals only)
- Requests for transcripts of City Council proceedings
- Lobbying Bureau transactions

Thank you for your cooperation and your understanding. We look forward to the time when we can resume full operations in all of our offices. Until then, we will continue to make the health and safety of our visitors, staff, families and neighbors our top priority.

2. What is the procedure to apply for a marriage license virtually?

The couple should log into “Project Cupid” at <http://www.nyc.gov/cupid> to create an account, verify their identity and submit the \$35.00 (thirty-five dollar) marriage license fee. After the fee is paid, they can select an appointment date for a videoconference with a marriage license clerk to complete their application. To participate in this appointment, they will need a device capable of

videoconferencing, such as a laptop, smartphone, or tablet. While an in-person appearance at the Marriage Bureau is not required, the other eligibility requirements for a marriage license remain the same. For example, the couple will still need [proper identification](#). For further information regarding identification requirements and fees please see the [Marriage License](#) section on our website.

Please also see [Procedures for Virtual Marriage Ceremonies Conducted by Non-City Clerk Marriage Officials](#).

3. We obtained our marriage license before you closed your office in March. Do we need to get a new marriage license?

No. You do not need a new marriage license if the expiration date of the marriage license you already have is on or after March 7, 2020.

Normally, after a couple obtains a marriage license, they must have a marriage ceremony performed within sixty days or the license will expire. However, on April 18, 2020, Governor Cuomo issued [Executive Order No. 202.20](#), as extended, which waives this sixty-day expiration date. This waiver remains in effect “during the period of time that there exists a declared emergency in New York State.” Therefore, if the couple obtained a marriage license with an expiration date that occurs on or after March 7, 2020, even if more than sixty days have passed since it was issued, they may still use that marriage license to marry. They may choose a marriage officiant who is willing to perform the marriage ceremony either in person (while practicing social distancing) or virtually, using the marriage license that they received from the City Clerk’s Office.

Please see Paragraph 8 in our [Procedures for Virtual Marriage Ceremonies Conducted by Non-City Clerk Marriage Officials](#) for details on how to submit a completed marriage license.

4. How can we have a wedding?

If a couple obtained a marriage license prior to the closure of our office, or if they obtained a marriage license in pdf form during a Project Cupid virtual appointment, they will have to choose a private marriage officiant to perform the ceremony. If they arrange for an in-person ceremony, they should remember to maintain social distancing at all times during the ceremony. For virtual ceremonies, please see our [Procedures for Virtual Marriage Ceremonies Conducted by Non-City Clerk Marriage Officials](#) for more information.

5. Can I get married at “City Hall”?

No. Currently, marriage ceremonies are not yet available on Project Cupid.

6. How do I find a private marriage officiant to solemnize my wedding 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 people such as 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](#)). When you find a suitable marriage officiant, please refer them to our [guidance for non-city clerk marriage officiants](#) explaining how to perform a marriage ceremony by videoconference.

7. What if our marriage license has expired?

Please refer to the answer to question 3 above.

8. We received our marriage license before the Marriage Bureau closed in March and our marriage ceremony was performed outside your office. Should we mail our original hard copy of the completed marriage license to your office?

We are processing completed marriage licenses received by mail as quickly as possible. If a couple mails in their completed marriage license, their marriage certificate will be sent to them by U.S mail.

If a couple needs to receive their marriage certificate quickly, the couple should scan and email a copy of the completed marriage license to VMLReturns@cityclerk.nyc.gov for processing. The couple should store the original completed marriage license in a place of safekeeping.

9. We received a virtual marriage license and had a virtual marriage ceremony performed by a private marriage officiant. Should we mail our completed marriage license to your office?

No. Please see our [Procedures for Virtual Marriage Ceremonies Conducted by Non-City Clerk Marriage Officiants](#) for more information on how to send the electronic marriage license to our office.

10. I submitted a marriage record request by mail. When will I receive a response?

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

11. Do I have to register to officiate at a virtual ceremony?

No. The registration requirement is only for in person ceremonies conducted within the five boroughs of NYC. Bear in mind though that to officiate any marriage ceremony you must be qualified to do so under [Section 11 of the Domestic Relations Law](#).

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

Please follow the directions found here: <https://www.cityclerk.nyc.gov/content/marriage-records>. Please also be aware that the deadline to obtain an enhanced driver license has been extended by the DMV for an additional year, to October 1, 2021.

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

No, we are not offering **virtual** domestic partnership registration at this time. However, we are now permitting applicants **only** for domestic partnership registration and certificates of non-impediment to make reservations for in person office visits. This will be available only in the Manhattan office.

Since the office remains closed to the general public **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>.

14. Can I register as a marriage officiant by mail?

Yes. If you are concerned about filing your registration on time for the 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.