



## **ECTOR COUNTY CLERK**

**Honorable Jennifer Martin**

### **MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Requirements for Marriage License to be issued by Ector County Clerk are as follows:

1. Both applicants must appear together and submit proof of age and identity by valid state driver's license, valid state ID Card, U.S. Military ID, U.S. passport or visa, or any certificate of license issued by this state, another state, the U.S. government or a foreign government. Proof of ID must include a photo, name and date of birth. Both applicants should bring a certified copy of their birth certificate.
2. The cost of the Marriage License is \$82.00. Couples who participate in premarital counseling through a certified Texas Health and Human Services Commission provider called Together in Texas must present their certificate of course completion at the time they apply for the marriage license; the certificate must be used within one year of issuance. The cost of the marriage license to applicants who have attended the aforementioned premarital counseling is \$22.00. If neither applicant provides proof that the applicant is a resident of this state there will be an additional fee of \$100 for issuing the Marriage License. Cash and credit cards are acceptable forms of payment.
3. The legal age to purchase a Marriage License in the State of Texas is 18. The state does not require a blood test. If either applicant has been recently divorced from any party other than the co-applicant, the state requires a 30 day waiting period from the date of final decree unless waived by the court. Applicants are required to submit a certified copy of Final Decree showing name change if different from current identification.
4. The license is valid for 90 days from the date of purchase, during which time the ceremony must occur, or the license will expire. There is a 72-hour waiting period from the time the license is purchased until the ceremony can be performed. Active duty military personnel are exempt from the 72-hour waiting period, with proof of active military duty status. Couples who have attended premarital counseling through a certified Texas Health and Human Services Commission provider are exempt from the 72-hour waiting period, upon presentation of their certificate of completion to the officiator (pastor, judge, etc.)
5. It is your responsibility to arrange the appointment with the official or minister who is going to conduct your ceremony.
6. Following the ceremony, the person officiating must complete the ceremony section of the license, sign it, and then return it to the county clerk for recording. The original license will be returned to you once it has been recorded.
7. You may obtain certified copies of your marriage license at any time after it has been recorded. Certified copies cost \$21.00 each. Do not release your ORIGINAL marriage license to anyone without assurances that it will be returned to you. A certified copy of your marriage license should be used when the party or agency requesting it will not accept a plain copy.

**Marriage Certificates will not be issued after 4:00 P.M. Both applicants must be present at this time.**

The Ector County Clerk's office is located in the Ector County Courthouse in Odessa, Texas.

Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, with the exception of holidays.

If you have any questions not addressed here, please call the Ector County Clerk's office at (432) 498-4130.