

# Colorado Marriage Officiant Guide

**Officiants:** Officiants must be legally ordained by a church or religious organization prior to performing any ceremonies in Colorado. Non-resident Wedding Officiants are not required to register in Colorado; however, all Wedding Officiants must submit their credentials to any legal authority upon their request.

Couples may solemnize their own marriage themselves (*C.R.S. 14-2-109*) without a Wedding Officiant, but must apply for permission from their local County Courthouse in order to do this. However, friends or relatives *cannot* solemnize a marriage unless they are ordained.

**Ceremony:** A marriage may be solemnized by a judge of a court of record, a public official whose powers include solemnization of marriages, or in accordance with any mode of solemnization recognized by any religious denomination or Indian nation or tribe. (*C.R.S. 14-2-109*)

## MARRIAGE LICENSE INFORMATION

*Much of the information below is state law in Colorado; however, this information can vary from county to county, and is subject to change. We recommend contacting your county clerk's office before applying for your marriage license.*

**Fee:** Marriage license fee is \$30 (plus additional county and local fees), payable in cash or debit/credit card payment only.

**Age Requirements:** The legal age to marry without parental consent is 18 years of age in Colorado. Applicants who are 16 or 17 years of age must have parental consent from both parents. A parent who has sole custody of a minor will be required to sign a statement to this fact. If one or both of the parents cannot appear at the time of applying for the license, an absentee application may be completed and notarized ahead of time. This is to be presented when the marriage license is issued. Applicants 15 years of age or younger must obtain a court order granting judicial approval, as well as complying with the above requirements. The court order must be obtained in the county where judicial approval has been granted.

**Identification:** Driver's license, passport, visa, birth certificate, military ID, or state-issued ID card.

**Social Security Number:** Must be given when applying for a license. If either party does not have a social security number, they must sign an affidavit when applying for the license.

**Application Form:** Both male and female applicants must appear in person to complete and sign the marriage application. If one party cannot appear due to illness, is out of state, or incarcerated, he or she must obtain an ABSENTEE APPLICATION from the Clerk and Recorder's office. The party applying must bring the absentee application along with identification for the absent party. Applicants need not be residents of Colorado. ABSENTEE APPLICATIONS MUST BE NOTARIZED.

**Marriage By Proxy:** Allowed. If a party to a marriage is unable to be present at solemnization, he or she may authorize in writing a third person to act as his or her proxy. See "Application Form" topic above. *Sec. 14-2-109(2)*.

**Previous Marriages:** If either party has been divorced or widowed, the date, county and state must be provided, although proof is not required. The couple will be required to swear under oath that all information given is true and correct.

**Blood Test:** Blood tests are not required to obtain a marriage license.

**Cousin Marriages:** Allowed.

**Common Law Marriages:** Recognized by the State under specific circumstances. See "Common Law Marriage in Colorado," *16 Colo. Law. 252 (1987)*; *Crandall v. Resley, 804 P.2d 272 (Colo. App. 1990)*.

**Same-Gender Marriages:** Permitted as of October 7, 2014.

**Grounds for Annulment:** Lack of capacity to consent at time solemnized, under-age (not cured by consent of parents or court), fraud, jest or dare, duress and impotency (unknown to other party at time of marriage), and any prohibited marriage. *Sec. 14-10-111. See "Annulments in Colorado," 22 Colo. Law. 2249 (1993)*.



***For additional information, please visit [FirstNationMinistry.org](http://FirstNationMinistry.org)***

*The above information is believed to be correct, but does not purport to be legal advice, is not all-inclusive and shall be used only as a guide. Under the terms specified in your ordination, you are solely responsible for becoming familiar with and complying to all current laws and regulations in effect within the jurisdiction in which you will conduct ceremonies.*