

# Illinois Marriage Officiant Guide

**Marriage Officiants:** A marriage may be solemnized in accordance with the prescriptions of any religious denomination, Indian Nation or Tribe or Native Group, provided that when such prescriptions require an officiant, the officiant is in good standing with his or her religious denomination, Indian Nation or Tribe or Native Group. Either the person solemnizing the marriage, or, if no individual acting alone solemnized the marriage, both parties to the marriage, shall complete the marriage certificate form and forward it to the county clerk within ten days after such marriage is solemnized.

## MARRIAGE LICENSE INFORMATION

*Much of the information below is state law in Illinois; 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.*

**ID Requirement:** Any of the following documents will be accepted when applying for a marriage license:

- Valid U.S. driver's license
- Valid U.S. state identification card
- Valid U.S. passport
- Valid U.S. military identification card
- Valid Illinois Department of Public Aid card (the ID and the medical card).

If you do not have any of the above forms of identification, *then you must present two of the following forms of identification* when applying for a marriage license:

- A certified copy of a birth certificate.
- A valid U.S. resident alien card.
- U.S. naturalization papers.
- A valid foreign passport.
- All consulate identification cards. Affidavits are not acceptable.
- A baptismal record (the date of birth of the applicant must appear on this record).
- A life insurance policy, which has been in effect for one (1) year (the applicant's date of birth must appear on the document).
- A certified copy of their birth certificate.
- A second piece of identification showing date of birth.
- At least one parent of any applicant under the age of 18 must be present.



**Application Requirement:** Both parties to the marriage must appear in person at the time of applying.

**Residency Requirement:** Non-residents cannot obtain a marriage license if said marriage would be void in their state.

**Waiting Period:** One day following date of issue.

**If Divorced:** If either applicant is divorced, they must provide final divorce papers signed by the judge.

**Fees:** Varies depending on county (generally \$15 to \$30, *cash only*).

**Blood Tests:** No additional medical tests are required.

**Under 18:** Applicants between the ages of 16 and 17 may obtain a marriage license by presenting the following information: Sworn consent from each parent, or each legal guardian, or a judge — appearing in person — before the county clerk at the time of application. Those giving consent must provide proper identification, including a valid driver's license; valid state identification card; valid Illinois Department of Public Aid card; or valid passport. (If the legal guardian is giving consent, a certified copy of the guardianship papers must be provided.)

**Blood Relative Marriage:** Persons 18 years of age or older who are not blood relatives may marry without parental consent. (Exception: see *Cousin Marriage*, below.)

**Cousin Marriage:** First cousins older than 50 years of age may marry.

**Same-Gender Marriage:** Permitted.

**Valid:** An Illinois marriage license is valid for 60 days from the date it was issued, and must be solemnized within the State of Illinois.

**NOTE:** Marriage licenses issued in Cook County and some other Illinois locations may *not* be used in any other county.

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

*The above information is believed to be current and 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.*

# Illinois Marriage and Dissolution of Marriage Act

An excerpt from  
Illinois Compiled Statutes  
750 ILCS 5/209  
from Ch. 40, par. 209

## ***Sec. 209. Solemnization and Registration.***

(a) A marriage may be solemnized by a judge of a court of record, by a retired judge of a court of record, unless the retired judge was removed from office by the Judicial Inquiry Board, except that a retired judge shall not receive any compensation from the State, a county or any unit of local government in return for the solemnization of a marriage and there shall be no effect upon any pension benefits conferred by the Judges Retirement System of Illinois, by a judge of the Court of Claims, by a county clerk in counties having 2,000,000 or more inhabitants, by a public official whose powers include solemnization of marriages, or in accordance with the prescriptions of any religious denomination, Indian Nation or Tribe or Native Group, provided that when such prescriptions require an officiant, the officiant be in good standing with his religious denomination, Indian Nation or Tribe or Native Group. Either the person solemnizing the marriage, or, if no individual acting alone solemnized the marriage, both parties to the marriage, shall complete the marriage certificate form and forward it to the county clerk within 10 days after such marriage is solemnized.

(b) The solemnization of the marriage is not invalidated by the fact that the person solemnizing the marriage was not legally qualified to solemnize it, if either party to the marriage believed him to be so qualified or by the fact that the marriage was inadvertently solemnized in a county in Illinois other than the county where the license was issued.

*(Source: P.A. 95-775, eff. 1-1-09.)*