

# Kansas Marriage Officiant Guide

**Marriage Officiants:** Any ordained clergyperson of any religious denomination or society, including those not residing in Kansas, may perform marriage ceremonies anywhere in the state.

Officiants are not required to register with any agency prior to performing marriages, but should provide their couples with a file copy of their credentials as a courtesy.

The marriage ceremony must take place within six months of the marriage license issue date. The Officiant must also return the marriage license and a certificate of marriage to the probate judge that issued the marriage license within ten business days after the marriage ceremony.

**Solemnization Authority:** Marriage may be validly solemnized and contracted in this state, after a license has been issued for the marriage, in the following manner:

*By the mutual declarations of the two parties to be joined in marriage, made before an authorized officiating person and in the presence of at least two competent witnesses over 18 years of age, other than the officiating person, that they take each other as husband and wife. The following are authorized to be officiating persons:*



- Any currently ordained clergyman or religious authority of any religious denomination or society;
- Any licentiate of a denominational body or an appointee of any bishop serving as the regular clergyman of any church of the denomination to which the licentiate or appointee belongs, if not restrained from so doing by the discipline of that church or denomination;

The two parties to the marriage themselves, by mutual declarations that they take each other as husband and wife, in accordance with the customs, rules and regulations of any religious society, denomination or sect to which either of the parties belong, may be married without an authorized officiating person.

## MARRIAGE LICENSE INFORMATION

*Much of the information below is state law in Kansas; 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:** A certified birth certificate must be presented by both parties to the marriage. In addition, you must know the following information:

- Full name (First, Middle and Last)
- Residence (City, county and state)
- Birthplace (state or foreign country)
- Date of birth
- Race
- Highest level of education completed
- Both applicants' fathers' full name (First, Middle and Last)
- Both applicants' mothers' full name (First, Middle and Maiden)
- Birthplaces of parents (state or foreign country)
- Name and address of person performing ceremony, if known.

**Residency Requirement:** The parties to the marriage are not required to reside in Kansas.

**If Previously Married:** If previously married, how previous marriage ended and when. Number of this marriage (first, second, etc).

**Application Requirement:** Applicants must be either the bride or groom, or both. (Both applicants need not be present.)

Applicant(s) must swear under oath:

- The applicants are not related (i.e., first cousin or closer).
- The applicants have no other current spouse. (If divorced, decree must be filed over 30 days ago.)
- The applicants know of no other reason why they should not be legally married.

**Waiting Period:** Three business days.

**Fees:** \$50 fee and a \$25 judicial branch surcharge, payable in cash or money order only. Money orders should be payable to "Clerk of the District Court." The fee is non-refundable.

**Blood Tests:** No blood test requirement.

**Both parties age 18 or older:** No consent requirements.

**Under 18:** Any applicant who is under age 18 must have either:

- Notarized, written consent of all then living parents and legal guardians, *or*
- Notarized, written consent of one parent or legal guardian, *and* consent of a district court judge. (*K.S.A. 23-106*)
- Identification number (usually Social Security number)

**Common Law Marriages:** Not permitted.

**Same-Gender Marriages:** Permitted, as of November 12, 2014.

**Valid:** A Kansas marriage license is valid for six months. The marriage license can only be used within the State of Kansas.

***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.*