

New Hampshire Marriage Officiant Guide

Officiants: Marriages may be performed by any ordained minister who resides in the state and is in good standing with his or her church. *Ministers not residing in the state must obtain permission to perform a marriage upon application to the Secretary of State.* The Officiant must also return a copy of the marriage certificate to the issuing town clerk following the ceremony.

Solemnization Authority: In the state of New Hampshire marriages may be performed by:

- A Justice of the Peace commissioned in New Hampshire and in good standing;
- An ordained member of the clergy who resides in New Hampshire, and who is in good standing with his or her congregation.

No person can marry him/herself. Special permission is required for unordained clergypersons.

An ordained member of the clergy who is *not a resident* of New Hampshire must obtain a special license which can be used only for that particular marriage. Questions and applications relative to solemnization licenses should be addressed directly to the Secretary of State at (603) 271-3244. There is a \$25 charge for licenses issued to out-of-state clergymen.

Witnesses to the ceremony are not required, but are permitted if desired.

MARRIAGE LICENSE INFORMATION

Much of the information below is state law in New Hampshire; however, this information can vary by location, and is subject to change. We recommend contacting your city or town clerk's office before applying for your marriage license.

ID Requirement: Valid picture identification and Social Security number. Acceptable identification includes:

- Valid driver's license
- Valid identification card from DMV
- Valid passport
- Valid military ID
- Resident alien card
- Certified or original birth certificate.

NOTE: A foreign birth certificate must be translated into English and notarized.

Residency Requirement: The persons getting married do not have to be residents of New Hampshire. However, if both parties reside outside of the state, the marriage intentions must be filed with the clerk of the same city or town in New Hampshire where you plan to be married. Anyone, resident or not, can obtain a license anywhere in the state and be married anywhere in the state.

If one of the parties resides in the state, the marriage intentions must be filed with the clerk of the city or town where the resident lives in New Hampshire. If both parties reside in New Hampshire in different cities/towns, the intentions can be filed at either location. However, only one filing is required. This license may be used anywhere within the state but it must be returned by the Officiant after the ceremony to the clerk who issued the license. A license is valid for a period of 90 days from the date of filing. If license is not used for some reason, it must be returned to clerk who issued it.

After the marriage ceremony is performed, the Officiant will provide the couple with the Contracting Parties Copy of the marriage certificate. This copy must be brought to the clerk of issuance and certified by him/her at no additional charge. This certificate then becomes a legal document.

The certification cannot take place until the clerk has in his/her possession the completed copy of the certificate from the Officiant. Permit adequate time (approximately two weeks) for this to take place before requesting this service.

If Divorced: Provide certified copies of divorce and/or death certificates for any previous marriages.

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

Waiting Period: 3 days.

Fee: \$45 — Cash Only.

Blood Tests: No blood test requirement.

Under 18: Applicants who has reached the age of 18 can marry without parental consent. A female between the age of 13 and 17 years and a male between the age of 14 and 17 years can be married only with the permission of their parent or guardian and a signed waiver (see “Waivers” below).

A female below the age of 13 and a male below the age of 14 are not allowed to marry under any conditions.

The above regulations on age apply to New Hampshire residents or to a non-resident who desires to marry a resident. If both parties are non-residents and are below the age of 18 they cannot be married in New Hampshire under any conditions.

Waivers: When “good and special cause” is shown, waivers may be obtained which can alter certain requirements.

- Age: When either of the applicants is not yet 18 years of age but meets the minimum age requirements (See “Under 18” above) whether a resident or marrying a resident of this state, when joined in the request by their parents or guardian, he/she may request and obtain permission to marry by applying to a justice of the superior court or to the judge of probate where one of the parties resides within N.H.
- Waiting period: This requirement can be waived on application to a justice of the superior court or judge of probate within the county where the marriage is to take place.

Proxy Marriages: No. Both parties must be present.

Cousin Marriages: Not permitted.

Same-Gender Marriages: Permitted.

Uniform Marriage Recognition Law: If a New Hampshire resident goes to another state to get married to avoid New Hampshire requirements, or if a non-resident comes to New Hampshire to avoid their state’s requirements, such a marriage will be declared null and void with the same effect as though such prohibited marriage had been entered into in the state of residence.

For additional information, please visit 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.



PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

APPLICATION TO PERFORM A MARRIAGE CEREMONY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

I respectfully request a special license to solemnize in the State of New Hampshire the marriage of:

_____ of _____
(Person A) (City and State)

_____ of _____
(Person B) (City and State)

In accordance with New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated Chapter 457:32, I certify that I am:

An **ordained** minister who does not reside in the State of New Hampshire and am ordained according to the usages of the denomination of: First Nation Church and Ministry
If the denomination is not filled in your application will be returned.

A **non-ordained** minister who does not reside in the State of New Hampshire and is in the service of the denomination of: _____

An **individual** who does not reside in the State of New Hampshire but is authorized or licensed to perform marriages in my state of residence. **NOTE: A copy of your commission (notary or justice) or proof of authority to perform marriages in your state of residence must accompany this application.**

(Signature of Applicant)

(Mailing Address)

(Print Name of Applicant)

(City, State, Zip Code)

Date: _____ 20 19

Phone No. _____

Return original application to: Office of the Secretary of State, State House, Room 204, Concord, N.H. 03301

**Phone: 603-271-3242 Fee: \$25.00 must accompany this application
(Please make check payable to the State of New Hampshire)**