

Information on Marriage Applications

1. A marriage license shall be obtained from the county Register of Deeds Office at a cost of **\$40**. SDCL 25-1-10
2. A marriage license issued in South Dakota is for a wedding ceremony that takes place in South Dakota. If you are planning a wedding outside of the state of South Dakota your license must be purchased under the laws of that jurisdiction.
3. A marriage license is only valid for **90 days** from the date issued. Every day is counted even weekends. Your ceremony must take place within this 90-day time period. SDCL 25-1-24
4. Both the bride and groom must appear in the Register of Deeds Office when an applying for a marriage license to allow for the signature (and recording of the signatures electronically).
 - a. Proof of identity and proof of age must be provided. SDCL 25-1-10.1 SDCL 25-1-9
 - i. If an applicant is 16 or 17 years of ages, a parental consent form is required to also be completed at the time of the marriage license application. SDCL 25-1-13
 - b. Social Security number must be known.
 - c. The marital status of the applicants is required, (never married, widowed, divorced,) and number of previous marriages.
 - d. Date and location of the ceremony is recorded on the application.
 - e. You will need to declare what surname (last name) and middle name that each person will be using after the wedding. This information will be printed on your Marriage License. More information regarding this new law effective July 1, 2021 is available at the Register of Deeds Office. SDCL 25-1-10.1.

A copy of the marriage license application worksheet is available at <https://doh.sd.gov/media/ojfhfm4r/marriagelicenseapplication.pdf>

After the ceremony has taken place

5. Within **10 days** after the ceremony is completed the application must be returned to a Register of Deeds Office to be entered into the state computer system. SDCL 25-1-35
 - a. Please make sure that the printed signatures are legible.
6. Once the ceremony has been entered into the computer you may purchase certified copies of your **marriage license** for **\$15** per certified copy. These are the copies that may be necessary for changing your name on your Social Security Card, Driver's License, applying for retirement pensions, adding your spouse to life insurance policies...

If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Register of Deeds Office.

The Lake County Clerk of Courts Office located in the Courthouse no longer performs marriage ceremonies.

South Dakota Codified Laws regarding marriages can be found at [Codified Law 25-1 | South Dakota Legislature](#)