



Marrying in Massachusetts

Massachusetts General Laws requires, except for several special circumstances listed below, that you and your fiancé must appear in person at the Town Clerk's Office in order to obtain a marriage license. Your Marriage Licenses will be on file in the town where you file your Intention of Marriage. Your Marriage Ceremony may take place in any town in Massachusetts. You must be at least eighteen years old or have a court order providing for an exception. Massachusetts is the only state where same sex marriages are legal, but you must be a resident or intend to reside in Massachusetts.

Intention of Marriage

You and your fiancé will first be asked to complete and sign under oath an Intention of Marriage. Information that is essential in completing this form is your social security number, your place of birth and your mother's maiden name.

The fee for filing the Intention of Marriage is \$20.00 and no premarital blood test is required.

Marriage Licenses

Massachusetts requires a mandatory three day waiting period from the time the intention is filed before a license can be issued, Sundays and holidays are included in the three days. A waiver from this period may be obtained from a local District Court. A marriage license must be used for a ceremony in Massachusetts within sixty days from the date of filing the Intention of Marriage. The member of the clergy or Justice of the Peace who performs the ceremony must sign the license and return it to the Town Clerk's Office. The fee for certified copies of your marriage license is \$10.00.

Special Circumstances

If a person is in the military, either party may file intentions, providing one is a Massachusetts resident. If a person is incarcerated in a state or a county house of correction facility, either person may file the intention. Massachusetts's statute does not require that any witnesses be present at your ceremony, though some faiths require posting of marriage bans prior to the wedding day. Check with your personal priest, pastor, minister, rabbi or officiant.

For more information, please contact Falmouth's Town Clerk at (508)495-7360 for details of the legalities concerning getting married in Falmouth.

The following resources are also available to you:

Town of Falmouth
Town Hall
59 Town Hall Square
Falmouth, MA. 02540
(508) 548-7611

or

The Registry of Vital Records and Statistics
Department of Public Health
470 Atlantic Ave. 2nd floor
Boston, MA. 02210-2224
(617) 723-8600