Marriage FAQ's

How Long Must I Wait Between The Time I Get My License And The Actual Ceremony?

There must be at least 72 hours between the date and time of issuance of a license and the time the ceremony occurs unless one applicant is on active duty in the armed forces, or a waiver is granted. (See County Clerk for more details) If a marriage ceremony has not been conducted before the 91st day after the date the license is issued, the marriage license expires. [Family Code § 2.201]

Who is responsible for filing of the marriage license?

The person who conducts the ceremony should file the license.

Would someone who is a church official or leader from another state or country be qualified to conduct a marriage ceremony in Texas?

Yes, as long as the church official or leader is a licensed or ordained Christian minister or priest, a Jewish Rabbi, or person authorized by a religious organization to conduct a marriage ceremony. [FC 2.202]

Does the marriage ceremony have to take place in Texas?

There are no references in the state laws in regards to where the marriage ceremony has to take place. Once a marriage license is filed it is a presumed valid marriage [Family Code § 1.101]

Does Texas Recognize "Common Law" marriage?

Common-law marriage, also known as "informal marriage" is legal in Texas. A couple may choose whether or not to register their informal marriage. If they do choose to register, both the husband and wife must appear before the County Clerk to file a Declaration of Informal Marriage. The couple must list the date on the declaration from which they have considered themselves married. In other words, a couple can be married for some period of time before registering their informal marriage.

How do I get a certified copy of a marriage license or divorce decree?

You must contact the relevant County Clerk's office for marriage or the District Clerk's office for divorce. The Vital Statistics Unit in Austin, Texas can only provide a verification that a marriage or divorce has occurred.

Department Hours: 8:00 am - 4:45 pm Monday through Friday
Phone numbers Vitals Statistics-Marriages: (903) 590-4697 or 4698