



Marriage – Change of Name Act

Any couple that becomes married within Ontario can assume either name, remain the same name, and/or use a combination of both names.

The Record of Marriage (bottom portion of the Marriage License that the married couple retains after the ceremony) is not an official certificate. If you require legal proof of the marriage, you must apply for a Marriage Certificate. If you assume the name of your spouse, it is considered an “alias”. Your legal name is the name that is found on your Birth Certificate.

The parties to the marriage ceremony have three basic options following marriage:

OPTION # 1 Continue to use their last name

Under this course of action, the spouse, who wishes to continue to use his/her current last name, needs to take no action.

OPTION #2 “Assume” the use of the Spouse's last name

Spouses may “take” the other spouse's last name, and use it, as a result of their marriage. Most government organizations, credit card firms, etc., will accept a copy of the formal marriage certificate by the Office of the Registrar General as proof of the marriage, and issue revised identification for the spouse in their new last name.

OPTION #3 Legally change their last name

In this instance, the spouse elects the option under the Change of Name Act, completes the appropriate forms, and submits them to the Office of the Registrar General. These application forms are available at the Office of the Registrar General.

If this is done within 90 days of the marriage, there is no charge, otherwise, a fee is charged.

The Office of Registrar General amends the individual's birth record, replacing his/her name on that record with his/her married name, and retaining the former name in brackets. The Office of the Registrar General then issues a change of name certificate. If the individual was born in Ontario, a new birth certificate will be issued and the Province will retain the original birth certificate.

If at some time, a divorce takes place, and the spouse wishes to return to the use of his/her former names, they must apply once more for a change of name. If they apply within 90 days of the date of the divorce, the fee is \$25.00; otherwise it is the full fee.

For any other information about the Name Change Act, please contact the Office of Registrar General at 1-800-461-2156



Marriage Licence Application Information

1. Issuing hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. **Please allow 30 minutes** for the issuance of your Marriage Licence. Please contact the Clerk's Department to confirm that the proper signing officials are present to issue the Licence. Telephone number (905) 852-9181.
2. The fee for a Marriage Licence is \$125.00 cash or debit.
3. A Marriage Licence can be issued to the Applicant(s) **ONLY**. Both Parties must sign the application form.
4. When issuing a Marriage Licence **2 pieces** of identification are required for both parties, one being **photo identification** (i.e. Drivers Licence, valid Passport) and another piece of **original identification** (i.e. Birth Certificate, Social Insurance Card).
5. If either or both parties are divorced, the **ORIGINAL OR COURT CERTIFIED COPY** of the final decree, judgement or Certificate of Divorce is required. A photocopy is not acceptable. The court that granted the divorce can only certify a copy. **A divorce Judgement** is not acceptable. If the judgement does not come into effect on the date of issue, a Certificate of Divorce will be required. If the **divorce was granted outside of Canada**, please contact the **Division Registrar's office** at 1-807-343-7492 for more information.
6. A Marriage Licence is valid for 90 days from the date of issue and may be used anywhere in Ontario. You **MUST** have your arrangements made with either a Clergyman or JP before a Licence will be issued.
7. Proof of age in the form of a Birth Certificate is required for **ALL** applicants 18-21 years of age. Applicants under the age of 18 require both parents consent.
8. Please be specific when completing the Religious Denomination. Protestant is **not** a denomination (i.e. Anglican, Roman Catholic, Baptist, etc.). NIL is also acceptable.