

Do both people have to fill out a separate application?

No

Do both people have to be present to verify pay and pick up marriage license?

Yes

Do we need an appointment?

NO APPOINTMENT IS NEEDED. Marriage Licenses are issued between 8:30 am and 4:00 pm Monday – Friday (except Holidays)

Do we need to bring our social security card?

No, you will only need to verify that Social Security Number you typed in on the Marriage Application is correct.

How long does the process take after completing the application?

It takes 10-15 minutes to verify, purchase and pick up the marriage license.

How many days after receiving marriage license do I have to use/get married?

30 days

How long after the ceremony do I need to return the completed marriage license?

The Officiant/Minister must return the marriage license within 15 days of the ceremony

Can I bring the completed marriage license back to the Recorder's Office?

The Officiant/Minister is responsible for the completed marriage license to be returned to the Recorder's Office.

Can I buy the marriage license in one county of the state and get married in another county in the state?

Yes, if you purchase a marriage license in the state of Missouri, you can get married in **ANY** county in Missouri

How long after my divorce, can I purchase a marriage license?

The court system recommends a 30-day waiting period.

Is there a Judge?

Link to the Judge: <http://pettisco.com/courts> or Courts Division 5 – Pettis County.

The Recorder of Deed's office cannot answer questions concerning the judge.

Does the officiant have to be from Missouri?

Yes, the officiant must be in good standings and affiliated with a church or organization in Missouri.

See Missouri Statute # 451.100.

How will I receive the certified copy of the marriage license?

Your certified copy will be mailed to the address on the application using the self-addressed stamped envelope you provide.

How long does it take to get a certified copy of the marriage license?

When the marriage license is returned to the Recorder of Deeds office, the certified copy of the marriage license will be put in the mail the same day if received before noon; if received after 1 pm it will go in the mail the next day.

Why do I need a Certified Copy of the Marriage License?

You will need a certified copy of your marriage license if you are going to change your name on any government issued document

If you are not comfortable communicating in English, you will need to bring an interpreter to assist you in finalizing your application to receive the marriage license.

Online Marriage License Application Process

pettisco.com/recorder

After the online application is completed

Both Parties must appear together in the Recorder's Office

Monday through Friday 8:30am – 4pm.

- Missouri law bars the marriage of individuals **21 or older to anyone younger than 18.**
- If either party has been married before they must know the month & year that the previous marriage ended.
- Present a **valid, picture ID issued by the United States of America.**
- Pay fee of **\$60.00 cash (NO \$100 dollar bills)** or **\$62.00** if paid with Credit/Debit card.
- Give the license to the person performing the ceremony **before the wedding. The date of the marriage must be on or after the day the license was issued.**
- Marriage date must be 30 days from the date of issuance in the State of Missouri.
- NOT be related to each other through and including first cousins.

If either party is younger than 18, a custodial parent/legal guardian must be present to give consent to the application. The parent/legal guardian must provide a valid ID. *(\$1.00 additional fee to be paid at the time of application for each parental consent). **A birth certificate or court document naming the custodial parent or legal guardian must be presented at the time application is made.** If both parents have custodial custody both parents must be present. Missouri law prohibits marriage licenses being issued if either party is younger than **16**.

Return and Record of Marriage

The person performing the ceremony is required by law to return the completed license to the Pettis County Recorder of Deeds office within 15 days of the ceremony.

Unused Marriage License

If the license is not used, the marriage license must be returned to the Recorder's office. If the marriage license is lost or destroyed before the marriage ceremony you must reapply.

- **If the Officiant, (the person who signs the marriage license), does not have an established relationship with the Recorder's Office they must provide proof they are qualified to officiate a marriage ceremony in the State of Missouri. A copy of their certificate must be in the Recorder's Office before the marriage license is signed.**

A certified copy of your Marriage License will be mailed to the address you provided as soon as the original marriage license is returned to the Recorder's Office.

The responsibility of the Recorder of Deeds ends when the marriage license is issued.

We do not maintain a list of Officiants.