



The Policy of Obtaining a Marriage or Civil Union License in Ocean City, New Jersey

When should you apply for a marriage or civil union license in Ocean City?

- (1) If the applicants are **residents** of New Jersey, the license can be obtained from the Registrar in the municipality in which either applicant resides. The license is valid in any municipality in the State of New Jersey.
- (2) If the applicants are **non-residents** of New Jersey, and wish to be joined in ceremony in Ocean City, the applicants must apply in Ocean City.
- (3) Once the application has been filed, there is a 72 hour waiting period before the ceremony can take place. The application is valid for up to 6-months and is retained in the Registrar Office. Keep in mind that if a ceremony is taking place on a Saturday or Sunday, you must apply by the previous Tuesday to allow for the 72 hour waiting period and since the Registrar office is not open on weekends, the license must be issued and picked up by Friday.
- (4) If for some reason, the 72 hour waiting period cannot be met, the applicants must appear before a Superior Court judge to have it waived and that signed waiver must be presented to the Registrar prior to the license being issued.
- (5) Same sex couples who entered into a Domestic Partnership can enter into a Civil Union with the same partner by means of the Civil Union process. Once the couple enters into the Civil Union their previous Domestic Partnership terminates and the rights of Civil Unions apply.

*What you must bring to **APPLY** for the marriage or civil union license:*

- (1) Birth certificates, baptismal certificates or passports, proof of residency
- (2) A **WITNESS** must be the age of eighteen or over. If the applicants are unable to apply at the same time, they may apply separately; however the **same witness** must be present for both parties applying.
- (3) If either party was previously married or in civil union and is either divorced or widowed, you must bring a copy of the divorce decree or dissolution of a civil union which shows the name of the judge and the date and place of the final decree or a certified copy of a death certificate.
- (4) Social Security Numbers must be provided
- (5) If an applicant is under the age of 18, consent of both parents is required.
- (6) If an applicant is under the age of 16, both parental consents **AND** judicial approval of such consents are required.
- (7) \$28.00 for the license fee.

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The Policy of Obtaining a Domestic Partnership License in Ocean City, New Jersey

Effective February 19, 2007 a domestic partnership may only be registered by individuals who are 62 years of age or older and meet all other requirements for being deemed eligible to register a Domestic Partnership. A Domestic Partnership may be registered by same sex or opposite sex couples (again if age 62 years or older.)

Other Information You Need to Know

- (1) Once the license is issued, it is valid for 30 days
- (2) According to State law, the following individuals can perform a marriage or civil union ceremony
 - (a) Judges of a Federal District Court
 - (b) United States Magistrates
 - (c) Judges of Municipal Courts, Superior Courts or Tax Courts
 - (d) Mayors or Deputy Mayors
 - (e) County Clerks
 - (f) Clergyman - every minister of every religion
- (3) **TWO (2)** witnesses are required entering into a matrimonial or Civil Union. The witnesses must be at least 12 years old.
- (4) After the ceremony the license is recorded in the municipality in which the service took place. You must **contact** that municipality in order to receive a certified copy. With the *new* laws concerning 9-11, identification must be presented at time of request for a certified copy. A Request Form must be filled out and identification presented. The purchase price of a certified copy for Ocean City is \$5.00.

If you have additional questions, you may contact:

Registrar of Vital Statistics
City Clerk's Office
Room 1, City Hall
9th & Asbury Avenue
Ocean City, New Jersey 08226
8:45 am to 4:30 p.m.
(609) 525-9328, 9325 or 9326

Rita Fulginiti, Cape May County Clerk 465-1010
Richard Russell, O.C. Municipal Judge 398-1900
Beach Permits can be obtained by going to the Ocean City's
Web site: www.ocnj.us - *Community Services Department*,
or by calling (609) 525-9296