

READ CAREFULLY BEFORE COMPLETING APPLICATION

Marriage license applications may be made Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. *Once you have the license, a Marriage Ceremony Is Required Before You Are "Married."* A civil ceremony can be scheduled through Juvenile Court @ 613-3300 or Magistrate Court @ 613-3310.

The "Application for Marriage License" and the "Application Supplement—Marriage Report" may be typed or neatly printed. **Do not complete boxes 11 and 12 on the Application Supplement page.** These forms **must be neat and legible.** Please initial any changes you make on the forms. Bring both forms to the Probate Court and sign the Application in the presence of the Court Clerk. The marriage license authorizes the officiant to perform the ceremony. After the officiant certifies when and where the ceremony took place, Probate Court will mail a certified copy of the completed license to you.

BOTH THE BRIDE AND GROOM MUST BE PRESENT TO OBTAIN THE LICENSE.

Effective July 1, 2005, fees for Marriage Licenses in the State of Georgia will vary depending on the circumstances. If the couple has completed a **qualifying premarital education program**,* the marriage license fee will be \$22.00. Without certification that couple has completed such premarital education or counseling, the marriage license fee will be \$57.00. To qualify for the reduced fee, the couple must provide the Court a certificate of completion signed and dated by the person who conducted the counseling or education. Blank certificates can be obtained from Probate Court. Quoted fees include the cost of a certified copy of the marriage license. We accept cash, checks and money orders.

Each person must also provide **proper identification.** Acceptable forms of identification include a birth certificate, driver's license, state I.D. card, passport, Armed Forces I.D. card or a resident alien I.D. card. Only one form of I.D. is needed. Both bride and groom must **know** their **parent's full names and birthplaces.** Full name for mother is her maiden (birth) last name. "Birthplace" means the city or county and state where each parent was born. If either the bride or groom has been previously married and divorced, a copy of the **final divorce decree** must be provided for the Court's inspection. Make certain that it is the Final Divorce Decree, **not the Agreement.** The final divorce decree must be dated and signed by a Judge. If either has been married previously and the marriage was dissolved by death, a copy of the death certificate must be provided.

The marriage license is issued at the time of application unless a problem arises. Probate Court processing typically takes 10-30 minutes, depending upon the number of people waiting for assistance. After the license is issued there is **no** waiting period before the wedding ceremony can take place. The marriage license is good up to six (6) months after the date of issuance.

*Under the law, a "qualifying premarital education program" shall include at least six hours of instruction involving marital issues, which may include but not be limited to conflict management, communication skills, financial responsibilities, child and parenting responsibilities and extended family roles. The program must have been completed within twelve months prior to the application and the couple must have undergone the premarital education together. The premarital education must have been performed by: (1) a professional counselor, social worker, or marriage and family therapist; (2) a psychiatrist; (3) a psychologist; or (4) an active member of the clergy in the course of his or her service as a clergy, or the designee of an active member of the clergy, if the designee is skilled & trained in premarital education.

Note: To receive a marriage license without parental consent, the bride and groom must be at least 18 years of age. Persons 16 or 17 years of age may receive a marriage license if both parents residing in the household, or the parent with custody if the parents are legally separated or divorced, give written consent to the marriage in person at the time of the application.

**CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETION OF
QUALIFYING PREMARITAL EDUCATION**

This will certify that _____ and _____ have completed a course of premarital education conducted by the undersigned on _____[Date] and that such course qualifies under Section 19-3-30.1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated in that it included at least six hours of instruction involving marital issues (which may include but not be limited to conflict management, communication skills, financial responsibilities, child and parenting responsibilities, and extended family roles) and the couple underwent the course together.

I further certify that I am

- ___ A professional counselor, social worker, or marriage and family therapist who is licensed pursuant to Chapter 10A of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated;
- ___ A psychiatrist who is licensed as a physician pursuant to Chapter 34 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated;
- ___ A psychologist who is licensed pursuant to Chapter 39 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated;
- ___ An active member of the clergy who:
 - ___ performed such education in the course of my service as clergy; OR
 - ___ designated _____ to perform such education, and I certify that my designee is trained and skilled in premarital education and has certified to me the completion of the course by the couple.

Sworn to and certified before me
on _____.

Notary Public

Signature

Printed Name

Address

City, State, ZIP

Court I.D. Number

State File Number

STATE OF GEORGIA
Application Supplement - Marriage Report

1. <u>GROOM</u> -NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST, GENERATION)		2. DATE OF BIRTH (month, day, yr.)
3 SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OF GROOM	4. NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE (1st, 2nd, etc.)	
5. <u>BRIDE</u> -NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST)		6. MAIDEN LAST NAME
7. BRIDE DATE OF BIRTH (month, day, yr.)	8. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OF BRIDE	9. NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE (1st, 2nd, etc.)
10. COUNTY OF APPLICATION CLARKE	11. DATE OF THIS MARRIAGE	12. COUNTY WHERE MARRIAGE OCCURRED

Please type or print all information on this Report.

WHEN YOU SWEAR OR AFFIRM THAT THE MAIN MARRIAGE APPLICATION IS TRUE AND CORRECT, YOU ARE ALSO SWEARING OR AFFIRMING THAT ALL OF THE INFORMATION YOU ENTERED ON THIS APPLICATION SUPPLEMENT FORM IS ALSO TRUE AND CORRECT

This report is required by State Law O.C.G.A. §§ 19-3-33 and 31-10-21.

The information on this Report is used to construct a marriage index and to prepare non-identifying statistical reports. No certified copies of this Report are issued.

This form may be reproduced locally.

CONSENT OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN

To the Probate Judge of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia:

Date: _____, _____

We the parent(s) or guardian(s) of _____ a female of the age of _____ hereby consent to issuance of Marriage License to her and _____.

Signed _____
Father or Guardian

Signed _____
Mother or Guardian

Residence Address:

Residence Address:

WITNESS:

Probate Judge/Clerk

We the parent(s) or guardian(s) of _____ a male of the age of _____ hereby consent to issuance of Marriage License to him and _____.

Signed _____
Father or Guardian

Signed _____
Mother or Guardian

Residence Address:

Residence Address:

WITNESS:

Probate Judge/Clerk

Personally before the undersigned authority now come the undersigned affiant(s), who upon oath, state that the marriage license applicants, _____ and _____ are personally known to the affiant and that both applicants have reached the age of majority.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____, _____.

Signed: _____
(SEAL)

Signed: _____
(SEAL)