

BARRY COUNTY

PAMELA A. JARVIS

County Clerk

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TO: FUTURE MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICANTS

The following is a summary of the marriage laws of Michigan for both residents and non-residents:

1. Michigan residents must apply in the county of residence of one of the applicants. Non-residents must be married in the county where they make the application.
2. Both applicants must be 18 years of age or older. Exception may be made for applicants 16 and 17 years of age, provided one of his/her parents or legal guardians executes a consent form. (If a legal guardian signs, they must show guardianship papers, and in the case of divorce, the custodial parent must sign the form.) Applicants under 18 years of age should call the office for more detailed information.
3. Valid identification and social security number are required for both persons making application. Valid identification shall consist of a current driver's license or state I.D. Barry County residents must provide documentation showing residency.
4. On January 1, 2001, Michigan's Premarital law (Public Act 209 of 2000) went into effect. This law eliminated the requirement for a blood test or premarital counseling of couples applying for a marriage license. Instead, the law requires that couples be provided educational materials regarding prenatal care, and on the transmission and prevention of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.
5. **CERTIFIED** birth certificates are highly recommended upon application by both applicants. Certified copies of birth certificates may be obtained from the County in which the applicant was born. This is beneficial for applicants when they are applying for their license for vital parent information.
6. Once the above requirements have been met, the couple may apply for their license. One applicant may make the application as long as he/she has the necessary information and I.D. for both parties.
7. There is a ***THREE DAY WAITING PERIOD***. The waiting period consists of three days from the application. The license may be picked up on or after the third day after application unless that day is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. In that case, the license may be picked up on the first working day after the weekend or holiday.
8. The license is valid for 33 days from the first day after the date of application.
9. The fee is \$20.00 for Michigan residents and \$30.00 for out-of-state residents.
MICHIGAN MARRIAGE LICENSES MUST BE USED IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN.
10. The Barry County Clerk's Office is open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.