



Town of Dighton, Massachusetts

TOWN CLERK

979 Somerset Avenue, Dighton, MA 02715
Telephone - 508-669-5411 -- Fax - 508-669-5932
www.dighton-ma.gov

August 24, 2023

To: All Marriage Applicants

From: Shara Costa
Town Clerk

Re: Commissions on file with the S.E.C.

The Town Clerk's Office recommends all marriage intention APPLICANTS call the commissions section at the Secretary of the Commonwealths Office: 617-727-2836 prior to their wedding date and picking up their marriage certificate from the Town Clerk's Office for all types of officiants (Justice of the Peace, Clergy, One Day Solemnizer etc.) to ensure their commission is on file with the Secretary of the Commonwealth. Failure to do so could result in a wedding ceremony that is not legally binding. This is the applicant's responsibility and strongly recommended.

Respectfully,

Shara Costa
Town Clerk



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FAQ's About Marriage Intentions

Marriage Intentions cost \$25.00 (Cash or Check) at the time you fill out the intention.

There is a three day mandatory waiting period (weekends included) from the time you fill out your intention to the time you pick it up.

Marriage intentions are good for 60 days and only for marriages in Massachusetts.

Please bring a photo ID (drivers license preferred) with you when you fill out your intention.

Plan to be at Town Hall for 20 minutes, and both you and your future spouse need to be present.

Some information you will need is parents maiden name, who will marry you, when, and where.

After the marriage, the officiant who married you will return your marriage license to us. Please give us 1-2 business days to record it, then you can request certified copies.

Certified Copies are \$10.00 each.

Getting Married in Massachusetts

There are 4 primary groups of people who can officiate at weddings in Massachusetts. Each group needs to meet different requirements to get licensed.

- **In-state Clergy Member** – If you'd like to be married by a member of the clergy who lives in Massachusetts, they are most likely already authorized to perform the ceremony. **It is your responsibility to check this with the State Commissions Section.**

- **In-state Justice of the Peace** – Justices of the Peace are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, and some are authorized to perform marriages. It is your responsibility to check this with the State Commissions Section to ensure the Justice of the Peace is eligible to perform your wedding ceremony.
- **Out-of-state Clergy Member or Justice of the Peace** – Clergy members or Justices of the Peace who are authorized in other states to perform marriages have to file the non-resident, out of state clergy petition to get a certificate to officiate your ceremony. It is your responsibility to check this with the State Commissions Section to ensure the Out of State Clergy has filed the appropriate paperwork.
- **Anyone with a 1-day Designation** – If you want a friend or family member to officiate your wedding, they can apply for a 1-day designation. You must present the one day solemnizer certificate from the Secretary of State's office to pick up your marriage certificate.



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK
979 SOMERSET AVE.
DIGHTON, MA 02715
508-669-5411 Option 2

*TO ALL CLERGY, JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
& ONE DAY SOLEMNIZER*

IMPORTANT INFORMATION PLEASE READ

- 1. YOU MUST COMPLETE EACH LINE IN SECTION #20 (ONLY)**
- 2. YOU MUST USE A BLACK INK PEN OR A TYPEWRITER, FLAIR PENS OR MARKERS OF ANY KIND WILL NOT BE ACCEPTABLE**
- 3. THE MONTH MUST BE STATED IN LETTER NOT IN NUMBERS**
- 4. WHITEOUT, ERASURES AND/OR STRIKEOVERS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE**
- 5. PLEASE RETURN LICENSE AFTER MARRIAGE IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED OR DROP OFF AT THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

Thank you,

Shara Costa

THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT TO BE USED OUTSIDE OF MASSACHUSETTS. NOT VALID AFTER:



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH REGISTRY OF VITAL RECORDS AND STATISTICS CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE

(State file number) (City or town making contract) Registered No. Executive No.

1 Place of Marriage (Do not enter name of village or section of city or town) 2 Date of Marriage (Month) (Day) (Year)

LEAVE BLANK

LEAVE BLANK

Form fields for Party A and Party B: Full Name, Surname After Marriage, Date of Birth, Occupation, Residence, Number of Marriage, Birthplace, Name of Mother/Father, etc.

This section (lines 3-19) filled in by Clerk's Office

THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. Use only permanent black ink on approved black oppositer ribbon. Every item of information must be carefully supplied. ALTERATIONS AND ERASURES IN THIS CERTIFICATE ARE FORBIDDEN. PENALTY FOR VIOLATION, ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS. REG. C. 207, §§ 28, 28A, 46, 49, 54, 57 and 7-49, § 13.

COMMISSION ON FILE

Section 20: Solemnizer information. I HEREBY CES... but I solemnized the marriage of the above-named persons at No... (Name of city or town)... (Date)... Signatures... Address...

This section (lines 21-23) filled in by Clerk's Office

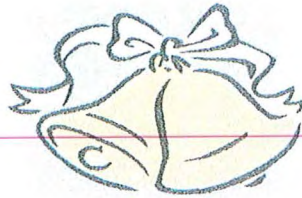
21 Certificate made: 22 PARTY A SEX: [MALE] [FEMALE] 23 PARTY B SEX: [MALE] [FEMALE]

Section 20 is filled out by the Solemnizer (i.e.: Religious Officiate, Justice of the Peace, One Day Solemnizer), please follow these instructions:

***** USE BLACK INK ONLY (NO FELT TIP) *****

- A. Enter name of church or the complete street address of where ceremony occurred. Do not use name of resort or facility.
B. Enter the legal city or town wedding took place. Do not use sub-division of city or town.
C. Enter the date of the ceremony, spelling the name of the month, i.e. use "August", not "8".
D. Sign your name.
E. Enter your official capacity: Justice of the Peace, Clergy, Rabbi, One Day Solemnizer etc.
F. Legibly print your name.
G. Enter your legal residential address. PO Boxes are not acceptable.

Please return the certificate in the envelope provided to you, or mail to Town Clerk, 979 Somerset Ave, Dighton, MA 02715. DO NOT GIVE TO MARRIED COUPLE TO RETURN. Thank you.



HOW DO I CHANGE MY NAME AFTER I GET MARRIED

A marriage is a license granted by the State that allows you to document a legal name change. A certified copy of this record serves as documentation for the legal name change.

There is a difference between legally changing your name and having your identification and records changed. Changing your records can be done after your marriage takes place. You will want to change your records to reflect your name change and to ensure that your identification documents are accurate.

STARTING THE IDENTIFICATION AND RECORDS CHANGE PROCESS

When changing your name start with your driver's license/identification card and your Social Security Card. Most government agencies will require a certified copy of your marriage certificate to make the change. Some organizations may have their own forms for you to fill out. It's a good idea to check and see what is required.

NOTIFYING ORGANIZATIONS

Here is a list of some of the organizations you will need to notify with your Name change:

- *Registry of Motor Vehicles, Driver's License*
- *Social Security –Form SS-5, One Edgewater Drive Suite 102, Norwood, MA 1-800-772-1213*
- *Vehicle Registration www.massrmv.com*
- *Insurance (auto,life,home,etc.)*
- *Passport www.travel.state.gov*
- *Post Office*
- *IRS*
- *Voter Registration www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/*
- *Banks/Credit Unions*
- *Magazine/ Catalogs*
- *Doctors, Dentists*
- *Clubs, Gym Memberships*
- *Employer*
- *Retirement Plans*
- *Investments*
- *Utilities (Phone, electric, etc.)*
- *Professional Licensing*

CHANGE YOUR LEGAL DOCUMENTS

Some of the legal documents that may need to be changed include:

- *Will*
- *Health Care Proxy*
- *Living Will*
- *Trust*
- *Power of Attorney*
- *Contracts*