



# Town of Dighton, Massachusetts

## TOWN CLERK

979 Somerset Avenue, Dighton, MA 02715  
Telephone - 508-669-5411 -- Fax - 508-669-5932  
[www.dighton-ma.gov](http://www.dighton-ma.gov)

## 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 (Real ID or Driver's License preferred) with you when you fill out your intention.
- Plan to be at Town Hall for 45 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, where, and the officiant's full address.
- After the marriage, the marriage license must be returned to the Clerk's Office either by dropping off or mailing in the envelope provided. **PLEASE DO NOT FOLD**. 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. It is your responsibility to check this with the State Commissions Section. The Solemnizer must include the original Commission with the gold seal when turning in the signed marriage certificate.



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October 2, 2025

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



## **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 & Vehicle Registration <https://www.mass.gov>
- Social Security-Form 5S-5, One Edgewater Drive Suite 102, Norwood, MA 1-800-772-1213
- Insurance (auto, life, home, etc.)
- Passport <https://travel.state.gov/>
- IRS
- Voter Registration <https://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