

DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIPS IN MAINE

Beginning in 2004, Maine implemented a Domestic Partner Registry. If you are planning to be married in Maine and you have already registered in Maine as a Domestic Partner, the partnership becomes void upon the date of the marriage.

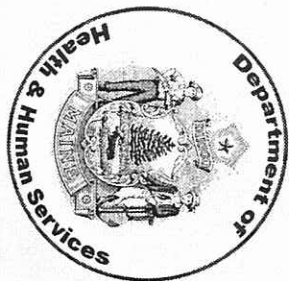
When completing Intentions of Marriage, if you are a registered Domestic Partner in Maine, please remember to indicate this on your Intentions of Marriage Application.

If you would like more information on Domestic Partnerships in Maine, please go to our web site at www.maine.gov/dhs/bohohodh/ovrmpage.

QUESTIONS

If you have any further questions, please contact either a municipal clerk or the Office of Vital Records at:

Office of Vital Records
#11 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0011
TEL: (207) 287-6490



John Elias Baldacci
Governor

John R. Nicholas
Commissioner

Non-Discrimination Notice

In accordance with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended by Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1991 (42 U.S.C. section 1981, 2000e et seq.), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. section 794), the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. section 12101 et seq.), and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, disability or age in its programs or activities.

An Affirmative Action Officer has been designated to coordinate our efforts to comply with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services regulations (45 C.F.R. Part 106) implementing these Federal Laws. Inquiries concerning these regulations and our grievance procedures for resolution of complaints alleging discrimination may be referred to 221 State Street, Augusta, Maine 04333, Telephone (207) 287-2567 (Voice) or 1-800-332-1003 (TTY), or to the Assistant Secretary of the Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D.C.

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R01/05



**PLANNING YOUR
MARRIAGE
IN
MAINE**

This pamphlet is designed to assist you in planning your marriage ceremony. It contains valuable information that you need to know to ensure that your marriage plans go smoothly. The information applies to residents and nonresidents.

RELATIONSHIP

If the parties recording notice of their intentions to marry are related (*first cousins*) as described in Title 19-A, section 701, subsection 2, the parties shall submit to the clerk, at the time of recording their intentions to marry, a certificate from a physician stating that the parties have received genetic counseling from the physician. Any other blood relatives are not permitted to marry in Maine. (Title 19-A M.R.S.A. §651-3).

AGE/PARENTAL CONSENT

A man or woman who has reached the age of 18 may marry without parental consent. If either the bride or the groom is under the age of 18 they **MUST** have consent from the parent(s) or legal guardian before the marriage license can be issued. The parent(s) or guardian may appear in person before the municipal clerk where the license was applied for and give consent, or they may give consent in writing before a notary public to be presented to the clerk. Also, when person(s) under the age of 16 years intend to marry, the municipal clerk must notify the Judge of Probate when marriage intentions are filed in their office. If no written consent from the judge has been received by the 30th day after the intentions are filed, consent shall be considered as received and the clerk may issue the license.

IF YOU HAVE BEEN MARRIED BEFORE

If the bride and/or groom has been married before and are divorced or widowed, a certified copy of documentation showing how the last marriage ended is required.

FILING INTENTIONS

The first step in filing a marriage license is to have the marriage intentions recorded in writing. Both parties must sign the intentions, stating they are free to marry.

If the bride and/or groom are residents of Maine, they must file their intentions at the municipal office in the town or city in which they reside. If both parties reside in Maine, but in separate municipalities, they must file in the municipal office in which at least one of them resides.

If only one party to the marriage resides in Maine and the other party resides outside the state of Maine, then both parties must file their intentions at the municipal office in the town/city where the resident lives.

If neither the bride nor groom is a resident of Maine, they must file intentions in any municipal office. Once the intentions are filed and the license is issued, the parties are free to marry anywhere within the State.

WAITING PERIOD

There is **NO** waiting period in the State of Maine. Once the intentions are filed, the license may be issued immediately.

OBTAINING YOUR MARRIAGE LICENSE

Once the intentions have been filed and the bride and groom have signed the marriage license, the marriage license may be issued to the bride and/or groom. The license must be used within 90 days (not three months) from the date the intentions were filed.

PERSONS AUTHORIZED TO SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGES IN MAINE.

If a resident of this state:

- ❖ A justice or judge;
- ❖ A lawyer admitted to the Maine Bar;

- ❖ A justice of the peace; or
- ❖ A notary public; and

Whether a resident or nonresident of the state of Maine and whether or not a citizen of the United States:

- ❖ An ordained minister of the gospel;
- ❖ A cleric engaged in the service of the religious body to which the cleric belongs; or
- ❖ A person licensed to preach by an association of ministers, religious seminary or ecclesiastical body.

THE CEREMONY

After the marriage ceremony has taken place, the person who performed the ceremony is responsible for completing the ceremony section of the marriage license. This includes obtaining signatures of two (2) witnesses and the signature of the officiant. The person performing the ceremony (officiant) **CANNOT** be one of the two witnesses to the ceremony. **THE MARRIAGE LICENSE MUST BE COMPLETED IN BLACK INK ONLY!!** Once the ceremony has taken place and the ceremony section has been completed, the officiant is then responsible for filing the license(s) with the municipal clerks at the municipality where the license was issued within 7 days.

*If a Maine resident goes to another state to get married to avoid Maine requirements, or if a nonresident comes to Maine to avoid the requirements of his/her state of residence, the marriage is considered to be null and void.

COPIES

Copies of your marriage certificate are available from the municipal clerk who issued the license and also from the Office of Vital Records. A fee does apply.