

## Marriage Licenses & Ceremonies Frequently Asked Questions

- **Question: How do I obtain a marriage license while the courthouse is not open to the public?**

**Answer:** You can schedule an appointment at our Downtown, Apopka, Ocoee or Winter Park offices by clicking here:

<https://www.myorangeclerk.com/Divisions/Marriages/Schedule-Appointment>.

Prior to your appointment you must complete the eMarriage application. The application can be filled out [here](#). After completing the eMarriage application you have 60 days to complete the process in person at one of our offices listed above.

- **Question: I already have the marriage license however my ceremony was scheduled at one of the courthouse locations, what can I do? Or Once I get the marriage license who can marry me?**

- **Answer:** All ceremonies scheduled at the Orange County Courthouse including all branch locations have been cancelled until further notice. You can contact a minister or Florida notary public to conduct the ceremony for you. The ceremony should be held between the effective date & expiration date listed on your marriage license.

- **Question: How can I get a refund, exchange for a new license or have the expiration date extended (COVID has caused us to not be able to get married on the date planned):**

**Answer:** Unfortunately, the marriage license expiration dates cannot be extended nor are we able offer refunds. Chapter 741.041 of the Florida Statutes governs the marriage license process which reflects: "Marriage license application valid for 60 days. Marriage licenses shall be valid only for a period of 60 days after issuance, and no person shall perform any ceremony of marriage after the expiration date of such license. The county court judge or clerk of the circuit court shall recite on each marriage license the final date that the license is valid." The Orange County Clerk of Courts cannot override the statute and extend the marriage license expiration date.

You may wish to contact a minister or Florida Notary Public to conduct the ceremony for you. This option, if taken, will legalize the marriage so that you are not forced to purchase another marriage license. If you choose to have a marriage ceremony later you would not have to worry about the legal process. I offer this only as an option, but unfortunately, we are unable to offer any type extension or provide a refund. If you are not able to use it before the expiration date and wish to get married after the date of expiration, you would need to reapply and pay the fee for a new license.

- **Question: I was told that the marriage license must be returned within 10 days after my ceremony, I am concerned that it won't be valid if it is received later?**
  - **Answer:** *As long as your ceremony was held between the effective date & the expiration date by an officiant authorized by Florida laws, your license is valid. The 10-day period is to ensure it is placed in our system to send to the state Bureau of Vital Statistics as well as to return it to the couple to make the necessary name and marital status changes. If received after that time period it does not make it invalid. Once the marriage license is received in the mail we will process it within a few business days and return the original and certified copy to you at the address provided.*
  
- **Question: I need a copy of my marriage license; how can I obtain it?**
  - **Answer:** *You may request a copy of your Orange County marriage license from the Clerk's Office by using the [Request Court Records](#) form located at:  
[https://myorangeclerk.com/Divisions/Records/~link.aspx?\\_id=F1E9A541394947CA957B1B300265CFE6&\\_z=z](https://myorangeclerk.com/Divisions/Records/~link.aspx?_id=F1E9A541394947CA957B1B300265CFE6&_z=z)*

*If you are unsure where the marriage license was filed, you may contact the Florida Department of Health, Division of Vital Statistics:*

*P.O. Box 210  
Jacksonville, FL 32231  
(904) 359-6955*
  
- **Question: What should I do with the marriage license after my ceremony since the courthouse is not open to the public?**
  - **Answer:** *You or the officiant should return the marriage license in the envelope provided. Once the marriage license is received in the mail we will process it within a few business days and return the original and certified copy to you at the address provided at the time of the application.*
  
- **Question: What if I have a question but don't need a marriage license?**
  - **Answer:** *You may submit your question using the "Contact Marriage Division" form located at:  
<https://myorangeclerk.com/Divisions/Marriages/Contact-Marriage-Division>. A member of our staff will respond within approximately two business days.*
  
- **Question: Is there still an emergency hotline to call?**
  - **Answer:** *No, the hotline is no longer being monitored since appointments are now available on line. If you have other questions and need assistance, please select the "Contact Us" option above.*