

Obtaining a Marriage License

■ Marriage Licenses

A marriage license may be obtained from any of our branch locations. The couple must appear together with a valid, governmental issued photo I.D., and must be at least 18 years old. If you have had a divorce or a state registered domestic partnership within 90 days, you must bring in your final divorce/dissolution decree. **Blood tests are not required.** Appointments are not necessary. A ceremony must be performed within 90 days of obtaining a marriage license. You may write and request a marriage license application be sent to you. Be sure to send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to return it in, **or** you can visit our web site at www.riversideacr.com for the application. The application may be completed prior to coming into our office to save time.

■ Ceremonies

The marriage ceremony can be performed the day the license is issued, or anytime within 90 days. The ceremony may be performed by a priest, rabbi, minister, judge, authorized legislator, or a person authorized by the Commissioner of Civil Marriages. You may have a civil ceremony performed by a staff member of the County Clerk's office in Riverside at our Gateway location, Palm Desert, Blythe, Hemet, or our Temecula office. An appointment is necessary and you can reserve a date and time in Riverside Gateway at (951) 486-7000, Palm Desert at (760) 863-7490, Blythe at (760) 921-5050 Hemet at (951) 766-2500, and Temecula at (951) 600-6200. You **must** provide at least one witness for the marriage ceremony.

Regular Civil Ceremony

Includes: Use of Ceremony Room or Outdoor area
Deputy Clerk to perform ceremony
Decorative Marriage Certificate

■ Ceremony Locations

Riverside - Gateway Location

Available: Regular Ceremony

Palm Desert

Available: Regular Ceremony

Blythe

Available: Regular Ceremony

Wednesdays only

Hemet

Available: Regular Ceremony

Temecula

Available: Regular Ceremony

Ceremonies performed outside in courtyard.

■ Certified Copies

Within 10 days after the ceremony, the license must be returned to the Recorder's office to be recorded. Certified copies may be obtained one week after recording.

■ Name Change

Parties wishing to use their new spouse's last name may begin using the name right after the ceremony. Any governmental or financial agency that has your previous name on file should be contacted regarding the name change. Examples of places to notify are banks, the DMV, Social Security, and health insurance companies. A certified copy of the recorded marriage license may be required. Generally, these agencies do not charge a fee for this service.

PLEASE CAREFULLY READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION REGARDING NAME CHANGES:

The Name Equality Act of 2007 (AB 102, Chapter 567 Statutes of 2007) gives specific rights to parties at the time they are applying for a California marriage license to choose and list on the marriage license the new name that each party will go by after marriage. **Parties are not required to have the same name, nor are they required to change their name. If one or both parties do not wish to identify a new name on the marriage license, the fields on the marriage license will be completed using two single dashes.** If one or both of the parties want to have their new name(s) reflected on the marriage license, the new name must be entered on the marriage license application **at the time they are applying for the marriage license.** The parties may choose any of the following **middle or last names** as the names they wish to be known as after marriage [FC § 306.5(b) (2)]:

| A person may adopt any of the following <i>middle names</i> : | A person may adopt any of the following <i>last names</i> : |
|--|---|
| ❖ The current last name of either spouse | ❖ The current last name of either spouse |
| ❖ The last name of either spouse given at birth | ❖ The last name of either spouse given at birth |
| ❖ A hyphenated combination of the current middle name and the current last name of the person or spouse | ❖ A name combining into a single last name all or a segment of the current last name or the last name of either spouse given at birth |
| ❖ A hyphenated combination of the current middle name and the last name given at birth of the person or spouse | ❖ A hyphenated combination of the last names |
| | ❖ NOTE: You may not change your first name using this process. |

IMPORTANT: You *may not* amend the marriage license after it has been issued or add or change the name you wish to be known as after you are married. The name you indicate on the marriage license/certificate cannot be changed by the County Clerk. Any changes or corrections to the name after the marriage license has been issued will require a COURT ORDERED NAME CHANGE. If you have any questions, please consult with an attorney *prior* to applying.

Locations to Serve You

RIVERSIDE (Gateway)

2724 Gateway Dr.
Riverside, CA 92507
(951) 486-7000

RIVERSIDE (Downtown CAC)

4080 Lemon St., 1st Floor
Riverside, CA 92501
(951) 955-6200

PALM DESERT

38-686 El Cerrito Road
Palm Desert, CA 92211
(951) 955-6200

HEMET

880 N. State St., Ste. B-6
Hemet, CA 92543
(951) 766-2500

TEMECULA

41002 County Center Dr., #230
Temecula, CA 92591
(951) 600-6200

BLYTHE

270 N. Broadway
Blythe, CA 92225
(760) 921-7888

For hours of operation, current fees,
and additional information, please call our office
or visit our website at www.riversideacr.com

Deputy Commissioner For A Day

As the Commissioner of Civil Marriages for the County of Riverside, Peter Aldana can officially appoint a close friend or relative to perform your marriage ceremony. We will provide a sample ceremony and instructions for completing the marriage license. You can rewrite the vows to make your wedding ceremony even more personalized.

The person who will perform the ceremony must be 18 years or older; must appear in person at the County Clerk's office to be appointed; must present a current governmental issued I.D.; and must know the location and date of the ceremony.

If you are not purchasing your marriage license in Riverside County, we suggest you ask the staff at the County Clerk's office of the county where you purchase your marriage license, if they allow out-of-county Deputy Commissioners to perform ceremonies with their marriage licenses.

If you purchase a marriage license in Riverside County, and the person performing your marriage was deputized in another county, a copy of the deputization **must** accompany the license when it is returned to be recorded. If we cannot determine a person has been duly deputized to perform a civil marriage, we may not be able to record the marriage license.

If you have any questions concerning the appointment of a Deputy Commissioner for the day, you can contact the Riverside County Clerk's Office at (951) 486-7000.

County of Riverside



Peter Aldana

Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder

Marriage Information

