

The County Clerk's office is charged with the duty of determining who is eligible to marry. As such we require:

- One applicant be from Gratiot County (If both are from another state, you apply in the county you will be married in and a \$30 fee applies)
- Driver's license or valid photo ID from one applicant showing proof of Gratiot County residency
- You must then be married in Michigan
- The application expires 30 days after the 3 day wait
- Only one person needs to be present to apply
- Birth certificates for both parties
- Social security numbers for both parties
- If previously married, we need a copy of Judgment of Divorce or death certificate
- There is a 3 day waiting period from the date you apply
- There is a \$20 fee

With regards to your question on who performs the marriage:

Current Michigan law does not require the registration of ministers to marry. It states under:

**MCL 551.7(1)**

(i) A minister of the gospel or cleric or religious practitioner, anywhere in this state, if the minister or cleric or religious practitioner is ordained or authorized to solemnize marriages according to the usages of the denomination.

(j) A minister of the gospel or cleric or religious practitioner, anywhere in this state, if the minister or cleric or religious practitioner is not a resident of this state but is authorized to solemnize marriages under the laws of the state in which the minister or cleric or religious practitioner resides.

If the person is ordained or authorized by a denomination, they can perform ceremonies.

If you have further questions or concerns in this regard, you should contact legal counsel.



Carol A. Vernon, Gratiot County Clerk

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## MARRIAGE LICENSE

### Requirements:

- Must be a resident of Gratiot County (If both applicants live out of state, then they must apply in the County in which the ceremony will be held).
- Must be married in the State of Michigan.

### To apply for a marriage license:

- Birth certificates of both parties
- Social Security numbers of both parties
- Driver's license of resident(s)
- If previously married, need judgment of divorce or death certificate of last marriage.
- \$20.00 fee (\$30.00 fee for out of state residents)
- Three-day waiting period. A waiver of the 3-day may be obtained from the County Clerk for good cause.
- Marriage license is valid for 30 days after three-day wait.

Payment options: Cash, check, money order, debit/credit card (VISA credit not accepted). Additional fees apply for debit/credit payments.

### Marriage License Instructions:

- Bride and groom must sign both copies of the marriage license in their married names.
- Clergy/Magistrate must print name and address, signature must include title.
- Clergy/Magistrate returns "original" license to register the marriage. Bride and groom keep "duplicate" as a keepsake copy.
- Witnesses on marriage licenses must be 18 years of age or older.
- The keepsake marriage certificate may be accepted as proof of name change at the Secretary of State Branch office if the county file number and seal or raised stamp appears on the document, in accordance with DL, Section I, page 3.