

Applying for a Marriage License in South Carolina

By state law, a marriage license is required for all weddings that take place in South Carolina. The bride and groom must apply in-person for the license through a county Probate Court or Clerk of Court's office. No blood test is required. Both parties must provide two (2) forms of identification, to include an original Social Security card and a current driver's license, passport, military identification card, or certified birth certificate. A license fee is payable, usually in cash. The license will be issued to the bride and groom after a twenty-four (24) hour waiting period.

As a result of a new state law passed in 2006, a man and a woman who have successfully completed a qualifying premarital preparation course may receive a one-time \$50 non-refundable state income tax credit. To qualify, a couple must:

- Attend a minimum 6-hour course of instruction taught by a professional counselor or active member of the clergy;
- Complete the course within 12 months prior to applying for a license;
- Complete the course together rather than individually; and
- Receive a certificate of completion, with the number of hours of instruction and the credentials of the course provider. This certificate must be submitted when applying for the license.

The bride and groom are responsible for giving the three (3) copies of the marriage license to the religious official or notary public who will conduct the wedding ceremony. After the ceremony, that person shall execute the licenses and submit two (2) copies to the Probate Court or Clerk of Court in the county where the wedding took place. One (1) copy is provided to the bride and groom.

For questions or additional information, please contact the following:

Richland County Probate Court
Richland County Judicial Center
1701 Main Street, Room 207
Columbia, SC
(803) 576-1992
<http://www.richlandonline.com>

Lexington County Probate Court
205 East Main Street
Lexington, SC
(803) 785-7718
<http://www.lex-co.com>

Fairfield County Probate Court
(803) 712-6519

Kershaw County Probate Court
1125 Broad Street

Camden, SC
(803) 425-1500

Sumter County Probate Court
141 North Main Street, Room 111
Sumter, SC
(803) 436-2166
<http://www.sumtercountysc.org>

Calhoun County Probate Court
302 South Huff Drive
St. Matthews, SC
(803) 874-3514
<http://www.inls.com/calhoun/index.asp>

Note: This information was compiled from government websites, is subject to change, and is not presented as legal advice.