

State Marriage Regulations

Each applicant must present a State Pre-Marital Blood Test Form, duly signed by the physician and applicant. Physician's statement must show date specimen was taken, names and addresses of physician and applicant, name and address of the laboratory

processing the test, but the results must not be shown.

Serological tests may be made in any laboratory approved and directly operated by the Department of Health in any state or the District of Columbia. Also acceptable are laboratories

of the U.S. Army, Navy or public health service. Privately owned or municipally operated laboratories are not acceptable.

Blood test expires 30 days from the taking of the specimen and the license must be obtained within those 30 days.

In case of pregnancy, neither party is required to have blood tests. Instead, the bride must have a letter from and signed by a physician giving her expected date of confinement. In this case, without blood tests, couple must wait 10 days after issuance of license before they may be married.

Both parties must appear in person when applying for marriage license.

Marriage license is valid 60 days from date of issuance. Marriage may take place 24 hours after issuance, providing blood tests are at least 10 days old. The waiting period for blood tests is 10 days, instead of just three days. This law became effective on Sept. 1, 1972. License may be obtained before blood tests are 10 days old but ceremony cannot be performed until blood tests are 10 days old.

All applicants must present proof of age. Males 16-17 and females 16-17 must have consent of their parents. Parents must appear in person or sign a notarized statement of consent (if signed outside of the state, this consent form must also bear the seal of the County Clerk). If parents are divorced, only the parent having legal custody or the court-appointed legal guardian must sign.

Girls 14-15 must be granted a court order of consent, as well as parents consent.

License issued in New York State may be used anywhere in the state. License may be obtained in one city and the ceremony performed in another. There is no residency requirement.

If divorced, a certified copy of the final decree of divorce must be presented showing date of filing, place divorce was granted and against whom. If more than one previous marriage, each and every divorce must be proven. Decree must bear the County Seal. This law went into effect on

Sept. 1, 1972.

Any further questions should be directed to the

Marriage Bureau at 428-7130 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

licenses also may be applied for and obtained at any Town Hall.



A portrait from Religious News Service.


Some Hints

Plan ahead when buying furniture. Unless your first apartment or house is the one you intend to live in for several years, it may be more practical not to purchase expensive furnishings right away. Keep future plans in mind, and try to choose furniture you

know you'll be able to use later on.

Do leave room in your budget for entertaining and evenings out. After all the work of setting up a new household, both you and your new husband deserve time to enjoy being married.

Bridal Check List



Visit the priest who will perform the marriage at least six weeks before your intended wedding date. Don't make any other arrangements (reception, honeymoon, etc.) until you have confirmed the date with him and with the church in which you will be married.

Sharing floral expenses with other couples being married on the same day will save costs and avoid confusion.

Inquire about the manner in which the organist or other musicians are contacted and the customary offering.

Instruct your photographer to consult the priest in the sacristy before the wedding to determine times and places where pictures are appropriate during the ceremony.

Tell the wedding party the importance of being prompt for both the rehearsal and the wedding.

Full participation in the sacrament of Matrimony involves the sharing of Holy Communion. It is fitting for the bride and groom to prepare for their marriage by receiving the sacrament of Penance.

Remember the Eucharistic Regulation: No solid food or liquids for one hour before Communion; water and medicine may be taken at any time. The bride, groom and members of the wedding party may receive Holy Communion under both species. Parents, relatives and friends are encouraged to receive Holy Communion.

A Protestant clergyman or a Rabbi may participate in the wedding ceremony. Arrangements for this should be made in advance with the priest marrying you.

Plan your own wedding ceremony with the help of the priest. Booklets to assist you are available in many parishes and at the Pre-Cana Conference. Members of your family and friends may read the first and second readings, and the prayer of the Faithful. They may also take part in the Offertory procession.

Each parish has regulations for the conducting of weddings (e.g. throwing of rice and confetti is not permitted at many churches). You will be expected to follow these rules. If you're not sure of the customs, ask your pastor.

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