

Getting Married in New York State

MARRIAGE LICENSE Where to get one:

A couple who intends to be married in New York State must apply in person for a marriage license to any town or city clerk in the state. The application for such a license must be signed only by the bride and groom, if both are 18 years of age or older.

City Clerk's Office, Rm. 300 A City Hall, Rochester, N. Y. is open 9-4:45 p.m., Monday through Friday. Validity:

A marriage license is valid for 60 days from the date it was issued. However, the marriage ceremony may not take place within 3 days from the date on which either blood specimen was taken or within 24 hours from the time that the license was issued, whichever is later.

It is noteworthy that the day on which the blood is drawn does not count as one of the 3 days. For example, if either blood specimen was drawn on April 1, the earliest the marriage ceremony could occur would be 12:01 a.m. on April 5.

When both parties are 16 years of age or older, the 3-day and/or 24-hour waiting periods may be waived by an order of a justice of the Supreme Court or a judge of the County Court in which either the bride or groom resides. If either person is under 16 years of age, the order must be from the Family Court judge of the county in which the bride or groom resides.

Cost:

The fee is \$5 for the license and up to \$5 for the Certificate of Marriage Registration. The latter is automatically sent by the clerk to the applicants within 15 days after the completed license is returned by the officiant, and serves as notice that a record of their marriage is on file.

PREMARITAL EXAM

Upon application, the clerk will require from each applicant a statement signed by a licensed physician or a commissioned medical officer of the Armed Forces or the U.S. Public Health Service. The statement must indicate that on the basis of an examination and blood test, the applicant is not infected with syphilis or, if infected, is not in a communicable stage.

The statement, form VS-77M, is usually provided to physicians by the laboratory performing the blood test. The applicants obtain their respective statements from the physician when the results of the blood test are returned by the laboratory.

A premarital examination report is valid for 30 days from the date on which the examination and blood test are made.

An examination and blood test are not required when a couple who is already legally married needs a license for the purpose of a second or subsequent ceremony.

The provisions of the premarital examination and blood test may be modified or waived when both the bride and groom are 16 years of age or older by an order of a justice of the

Supreme Court or a judge of the County Court in which either applicant resides. If either the bride or groom is under 16 years of age, the order must be from the Family Court judge of the county in which either applicant under 16 years of age resides. In the latter case, the court requires the consent of at least one parent for any person under 16 years of age.

WHO CAN GET MARRIED?

Age Restrictions:

A person may be required to submit documentary proof of age in the form of a birth certificate, baptismal record, passport, driver's license, employment certificate, school record, immigration record, naturalization record or court record. No other type of proof, such as a statement by parents, may be accepted.

Special Requirements:

There are special requirements for issuing a marriage license to minors:

- If either applicant is under 14 years of age, a marriage license cannot be issued;

- If either applicant is 14 or 15 years of age, such applicant(s) must present the written approval and consent of a justice of the Supreme Court or a judge of the Family Court having jurisdiction over the town or city in which the application is made;

- If either applicant is 16 or 17 years of age, such applicant(s) must present the written consent of both parents; or,

- If both applicants are 18 years of age or older, no consents are required.

One parent alone may consent to a minor's marriage if: a) the other parent has been missing for one year preceding the application; b) the parents have been divorced and the consenting parent was given full custody of the child when the divorce decree was awarded; or c) the other parent has been judged incompetent.

Parents, guardians or other persons consenting to the marriage of a minor must personally appear and acknowledge or execute their consent before the town or city clerk or some other authorized official. If the affidavit is made before an official outside of the State of New York, it must be accompanied by a certificate of authentication when the consent is filed in New York State.

Familial Restrictions

A marriage may not take place in New York State between an ancestor and descendant, a brother and sister (full or half-blood), an uncle and niece or an aunt and nephew, regardless of whether or not these persons are legitimate or illegitimate offspring.

IF YOU'VE BEEN MARRIED BEFORE

Information regarding previous marriages must be furnished in the application for a marriage license. This includes whether the former spouse or spouses are living, and whether the applicants are divorced persons and, if so, when, where and against whom the divorce or divorces were granted. A certified copy of the Decree of Divorce or a Certificate of Dissolution of Marriage issued by a county clerk may be required by the clerk issuing the marriage license.

THE CEREMONY

To be valid, a marriage must be conducted by one of the individuals specified in Section 11 of the Domestic Relations Law. Further information concerning who may perform a marriage ceremony is available from the clerk.

The marriage certificate must be signed by the officiant and at least one witness.

Within 5 days of the marriage, the officiant must forward the marriage certificate to the town or city clerk who issued the license. If there was a court order authorizing an immediate ceremony, it must also be sent to the clerk.

Friendship: A Key Ingredient For a Happy Successful Marriage

By Denie & Dee Stemmler and Fr. John Murray, CSB
Diocesan Coordinators
Worldwide Marriage Encounter

What is the magic button that makes a marriage work? Many articles have been written on things necessary for a good marriage. Most suggest the importance of communication, self-actualization, respect, trust, mutual responsibility, freedom to be yourself, etc. Many people contemplating marriage are troubled over how to determine if these things will characterize his/her future relationship with the intended.

Perhaps the best way to find out is to ask "Is the person I am about to marry my best friend? Is he/she the first person I instinctively turn to when I'm troubled, afraid, or full of doubts? Do I really like this person I'm about to marry? Would I want to be friends with this person even if we had never become romantically involved?"

These are not naive questions with obvious answers. If one cannot trust another human being enough to confide in them before marriage, then that situation is not likely to

'Marriage is a sacrament of the most intimate friendship. And like any other friendship, marriage is first and foremost a relationship between two people who value and cherish each other as persons.'

change after marriage or because of marriage. A crucial question is "do I have trouble accepting this person's fundamental personality - the way he/she views life and the people around them, the personal habits of neatness or disorder, honesty or shading the truth, meticulousness or laid back/easy going, etc?" Marriage will not make such personal differences more palatable.

Marriage is a sacrament of the most intimate friendship. And like any other friendship, marriage is first and foremost a relationship between two people who value and cherish

each other as persons. This evolves into a lifetime of building up and enriching each other. Marriage should be two friends looking at each other with clear, unclouded eyes and saying "You may be a crazy mixed-up kid, but I like you just the way you are. I like not only what you do and who you are, but also I like what you try to do even if you don't always succeed. And more importantly, I like the you you want to be and try to be."

This kind of friendship is the magic button that makes it work. "Happily ever after" seldom happens without it.

Imagination Makes Gift Giving Fun

Enhance the bride and groom's romantic ambience of those early months together by giving gifts appropriate for just the two of them: silverplated cognac cups with engraved initials, china Irish coffee cups with silverplated holders or continental champagne glasses.

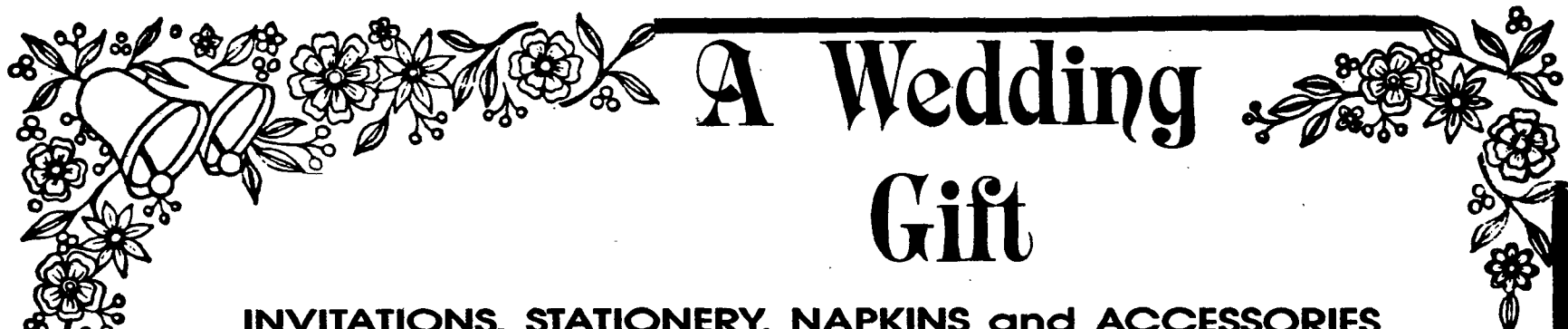
To add character to the gift include a celebrated bottle of cognac or champagne or a recipe for Irish coffee.

Another way to make a wedding gift memorable is to present it in an unforgettable manner. A tall bell-shaped full-lead crystal vase may look beautiful displayed in a tissue-filled box, but imagine the dazzle of the vase filled with colorful and exotic fresh-cut flowers.

Have the vase filled with flowers and delivered to the bride the day before the wedding. Or have it sent to

the couple's new home upon return from the honeymoon as a combination wedding/housewarming gift.

Another approach is to invite the couple to a pre-wedding party and serve drinks with congratulatory toasts from a crystal decanter with matching barware. Then later, present them with the set as a reminder of a special evening spent with special friends.



A Wedding Gift

INVITATIONS, STATIONERY, NAPKINS and ACCESSORIES

Something for every taste and budget from sweep, romantic invitations to boldly dramatic designs in deep, rich colors. We've an array of styles, a rainbow of color and endless ideas. Some creative & daring Others elegantly traditional - we have just what you're looking for.

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38 E. Main St.
In the Village
265-1800

Greece
2200 W. Ridge Rd.
Opp. Greece Towne Mall
227-8268

Henrietta/Brighton
Call for details