

How and Where can I get married in Massachusetts?

If you'd like to have your ceremony here in the Bay State, there are hundreds of beautiful venues to fit every couple's personality and budget. The **Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism (MOTT)** provides some highlights on their [wedding venue ideas page](#):

In addition, many **Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)** parks are happy to accommodate **small wedding ceremonies**, and a limited number of parks can accommodate larger weddings, as long as you get a [special use permit](#) for the day. [Contact the park](#) you're interested in for availability and additional information.

What paperwork do I need to get married in Massachusetts?

There's a 3-day waiting period once you apply for a marriage license. The license is valid for 60 days once you have it.

Should you need to request an exception to the 3-day waiting period, you can apply for this at the time you apply for your marriage license. Your city or town clerk will give you a

document which you will bring to your closest Probate Court House and then request to be heard. You will pay a fee for this request. Upon being called in the Court Room, the Judge will ask you questions as they see fit to determine if your request warrants a waiver for the 3-day waiting period. Not all requests are honored. Upon obtaining your request approved by the Judge, you may now return to the city or town clerk's office which you requested the waiver from to then obtain your marriage license.

You need to have a marriage license to get married in the Bay State. You can apply for a license from any city or town in the state — it doesn't have to be from the town where you live or where your ceremony will be.

By default, you should contact your city or town clerk to find out exactly what you and your future spouse need to do to get a marriage license, but in general, before your wedding, you'll need to:

- **Fill out a Notice of Intention of Marriage Form** — You and your future spouse will need to go in person to your city or town clerk to fill out this form. You'll need to provide:
 - Proof of your age, such as a birth certificate or passport
 - Your Social Security number
 - Payment for fees, which vary by town

- The name you'll use after the wedding if you've decided to change it
- **Pick up Your Marriage License** — There is a required 3-day waiting period before you can pick up your marriage license. In some cases, you can **apply for a marriage without delay** at the **probate or district court** in the town where you submitted your notice to waive this period. The license is valid for 60 days. If you're not married within 60 days of the date the license was granted, you'll need to apply for it again.
- **Give Your License to the Person Conducting the Ceremony** —
 - After you're married, your officiant must sign and return the license to the city or town clerk who issued it before the 60-day time period is up.
 - Massachusetts does not require you or witnesses to sign the marriage license, only your officiant will sign and complete the license.