

County Clerk – MARRIAGE

Frequently Asked Questions

- **How do I apply for a marriage license?**

A: Applications for Fort Bend County marriage licenses are done online, <http://ccweb.co.fort-bend.tx.us/Marriage/MarriageApplication.aspx> . Parties need to appear in person to obtain the license after application has been submitted.

- **How do I get a copy of my marriage license?**

A: You can request a copy of your marriage license online or in person, the application is available here, <https://www.fortbendcountytx.gov/government/departments/county-clerk/county-clerk-forms> . Ordering online is done through VitalChek, <https://www.fortbendcountytx.gov/government/departments/county-clerk/birth-death-marriage/online-ordering-vitalchek> .

- **How do I get a Keepsake marriage certificate?**

A: If you originally purchased your marriage license in Fort Bend County, you can request a Keepsake Marriage Certificate online or in person, the application is available here, <https://www.fortbendcountytx.gov/government/departments/county-clerk/county-clerk-forms> . Ordering online is done through VitalChek, <https://www.fortbendcountytx.gov/government/departments/county-clerk/birth-death-marriage/online-ordering-vitalchek> .

- **How do I request a verification of marriage certificate?**

A: Verification of marriage can be done in person, after filling out form available here, <https://www.fortbendcountytx.gov/government/departments/county-clerk/county-clerk-forms> . Verification letters are \$21.00, and only search for marriage status within Fort Bend County.

- **Can I file my foreign marriage in Fort Bend County?**

A: Marriage licenses issued in another country must include a true translation of the marriage license documents if in another language and a notary page on formal letterhead with signature of notary confirming that it is a true translation. The document is recordable in public records under the 'vitals' category. Please verify with legal counsel that this will achieve whatever you're trying to do, as the County Clerk cannot provide legal advice on the validity of recording this document.

- **How do I search for a marriage record?**

A: You can search the official public records 'marriage' tab for marriage licenses purchased in Fort Bend County, <http://ccweb.co.fort-bend.tx.us/Marriage/SearchEntry.aspx> . The easiest way to search is entering only the LASTNAME then FIRSTNAME and hitting search.

- **Do we have to come into the office to purchase our marriage license?**

A: Yes. After you have filled in the online application, the couple must come in person to confirm their identity, sign the marriage license paperwork, and receive the license documents. Both parties must be present with valid ID. The application fees are \$72.00 for formal marriage and

\$37.00 for an informal declaration. For more information, <https://www.fortbendcountytexas.gov/government/departments/county-clerk/birth-death-marriage/marriage-licenses> .

- **After we purchase our formal marriage license are we then legally married? Or is the marriage ceremony performed when we purchase our license?**

A: No. Purchasing the marriage license is the ‘paperwork’ portion of the process. Once you have purchased your license, you have to wait 72 hours before you can use it. After the 72 hour wait, you have three months/90 days to arrange a ceremony with a qualified officiant. After the ceremony, the person who performed it will need to fill out their portion of the license stating who they are, when they performed the ceremony, and where they are located then return it to the County Clerk’s office to record. When this process is finished, your marriage is of record.

- **How do I make an appointment to get my marriage license?**

A: Appointments are not necessary for a marriage license in Fort Bend County. However, you may make an appointment at <https://www.fortbendcountytexas.gov/government/departments/county-clerk/office-wait-times> to save your preferred time slot.

- **How do I make an appointment with a judge to get married?**

A: As a courtesy, the Fort Bend County Clerk provides a list of judges, found here <https://www.fortbendcountytexas.gov/government/departments/county-clerk/birth-death-marriage/marriage-licenses> . You may call each judge to request their information and to make an appointment for your ceremony.