

## **MARRIAGE LICENSES**

### **General**

Both persons must be present when filling out the marriage intentions at Town Clerk's Office.

Come prepared - make sure you know correct spelling of parents names in full (including their middle names).

Intentions may be filed in any Clerk's Office in Massachusetts for Massachusetts Weddings. Permanent Record of Marriage is maintained by the community where intentions were filed and also Vital Records in Boston.

Licenses are not filed in the community where marriage occurs unless intentions were filed there.

Cost to file Intentions - \$25.00

Certified Married License copies after marriage are \$10.00 each.

### **Surname**

Applicants must provide the chosen surname (last name only) to be used after marriage. Either party may continue to use his/her current surname, take the surname of the other party, hyphenate a combination of surnames, or use any other surname of their choice as long as there is no intent to defraud.

### **Prerequisite for Applicants intending to marry in Massachusetts**

Before an Intention is signed under oath, it is important that certain criteria are met.

These criteria include:

Prerequisites with time limitations: waiting period and divorce

Legal Impediments to Marriage: age, consanguinity/affinity, sex, and other impediments

Proof of where parties reside and/or intend to continue to reside

Requirements to appear, swear, and sign under oath

### **Waiting Period**

The mandatory waiting period between the date Intentions are filed and the date the license can be issued is three (3) days.

### **Legal Impediments**

Must be 18 years of age and not blood related - Statutes also require that proof of age is shown by both parties when filing intentions. Each party must indicate any relationship to the other party by consanguinity (blood/genetic relationship) or affinity (relationship through marriage of their relatives). Certain relationships are prohibited by Massachusetts statute and other may be prohibited by statutes where the party resides or intends to continue to reside.

### **Oath**

Be certain that each party has read and indicates understanding of the oath that appears above the signature lines.