

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR OBTAINING A MARRIAGE LICENSE

A marriage license must be issued by a South Carolina Probate Court prior to a marriage ceremony being performed in South Carolina. To apply for a marriage license, both applicants must personally appear.

South Carolina law requires a twenty-four (24) hour waiting period after submission of a marriage license application before the issuance of a marriage license.

In addition to the above requirements, the following requirements should be carefully noted and adhered to when applicable:

**SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS:** Each applicant must submit his or her social security card or, if applicable, their alien identification card (green card) with their application. We cannot process your application for marriage license without this information and documentation.

**AGE REQUIREMENTS:** Both applicants must be at least sixteen (16) years of age for the issuance of a marriage license. The only exception to the age and consent requirements is if the female applicant is pregnant, in which event special instructions should be obtained from the Probate Court prior to submitting an application.

**PARENTAL CONSENT:** Any applicant under the age of eighteen (18) years of age must include written parental consent to the marriage by at least one (1) of the minor applicant's parents or legal guardians. A consent form must be signed by the parent or legal guardian in the presence of a Notary Public. If the consent form is signed in a state other than South Carolina, the Notary Public must affix his/her seal. No consent is necessary for an applicant eighteen (18) years of age or older.

### **PROOF OF AGE:**

**Applicant under Eighteen (18) Years of Age:** In addition to the Application of Marriage, any applicant under eighteen (18) years of age must file with the Court one (1) of the following documents as evidence of the applicant's age:

- (1) A certified copy of the applicant's birth certificate; or
- (2) A hospital or baptismal certificate that has been issued and dated within one year after the applicant's birth.

If an original birth, baptismal or hospital certificate is presented to the Court, a copy will be made for the Court's records and the original returned to the applicant. Certified copies of birth certificates will not be returned to the applicant. The Court will not accept birth records with erasures or alteration as proof of age.

**Applicant Over Eighteen (18) Years of Age but Less than Twenty-Five (25) Years of Age:** In addition to the Application for Marriage, any applicant over eighteen (18) years of age but less than twenty-five (25) years of age, must file with the Court a copy of one (1) of the following documents as evidence of the applicant's age:

- (1) Driver's license;
- (2) Military identification card;
- (3) Selective service identification card;
- (4) Passport or visa; or
- (5) Certified copy of birth certificate.

**No proof of age is required of an applicant twenty-five (25) years of age or older.**