

Officiant Information

Per Nebraska Revised Statutes §42-108, *“Every judge, retired judge, clerk magistrate or retired clerk magistrate, and every preacher of the gospel authorized by the usages of the church to which he or she belongs to solemnize marriages, may perform the marriage ceremony in this State. Every such person performing the marriage ceremony shall make a return of his or her proceedings in the premises, showing the names and residences of at least two witnesses who were present at such marriage. The return shall be made to the county clerk who issued the license within fifteen (15) days after such marriage has been performed. The county clerk shall record the return or cause it to be recorded in the same book where the marriage license is recorded.”*

Marriage Licenses

Nebraska Revised Statutes §42-101 to §42-118 (Chapter 42) address marriage licenses. They can be found at <http://uniweb.legislature.ne.gov/laws/> (keyword: marriage).

Per Nebraska Revised Statutes §42-104, *“Prior to the solemnization of any marriage in this state, a license for that purpose shall be obtained from a county clerk in the State of Nebraska.”*

A Nebraska marriage license can only be used for ceremonies performed in this State.

The license expires one year (365 days) from the date of issuance.

Per §42-108, officiants are required to file (return) the marriage license to the county clerk within fifteen (15) days after a marriage has been performed.

Couples whose marriage license is issued by Lancaster County will receive a marriage packet which they are asked to give to their officiant. Inside the packet should be: (1) the original License and Certificate of Marriage; (2) the Keepsake; and (3) a self-addressed envelope for the officiant to file (return) the license to the County Clerk.

Following the Ceremony

Be sure all information on the license is filled out completely. Failure to do so may delay the recording of the marriage license with the County or the State.

Use only **black ink** when completing the License and Certificate of Marriage and the Keepsake. *Please do not write outside of the license’s designated areas.*

The officiant must fill in box numbers 21a through 21f. Remember to **SIGN** and **PRINT** your name in box 21d and to fill in your full mailing address, including city, state and zip code in box 21f.

You must also include your title (judge, minister, reverend, pastor, etc.) in box 21e.

The witnesses must fill in box numbers 22a through 22d. Remember to have both witnesses sign the document and fill in their full mailing address, including city, state and zip code.

If an error is detected **ABOVE** the signature lines, please contact the County Clerk's Office. (DO NOT allow any handwritten corrections to be made to the applicants' information above the signatures.)

If an error is made **BELOW** the signature lines, simply cross through the erroneous information and print or type the correction(s) above or to the side.

Never use whiteout to make a correction on a marriage license.

Filing the Marriage License

Officiants are required to file (return) the **original** "License & Certificate of Marriage" to the county clerk within fifteen (15) days of the ceremony. (*For your convenience, a self-addressed envelope is provided in the marriage packet.*)

Please keep in mind that couples cannot receive a certified copy of their marriage license until it is returned to the county clerk's office. Certified copies are needed for such things as insurance, benefits and name changes.

Photocopies of the completed marriage license will not be accepted.

Only the "Keepsake" should be given to the couple following the ceremony.

If you have questions, please contact:
Lancaster County Clerk
(402) 441-7484
Monday-Friday; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
coclerk@lancaster.ne.gov