



Circuit Court for Howard County
Land Records/License Department
8360 Court Avenue
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410.313.5850
www.mdcourts.gov/clerks/howard/index.html
Wayne A. Robey, Clerk

GUIDELINES COURTHOUSE CEREMONIES:

Marriage ceremonies are performed by the Clerk of the Court between 9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M., (EVERY ½ HOUR) Monday through Friday.

In case of inclement weather, PLEASE CALL THE JURY LINE 410-313-4462 OR WWW.MDCOURTS.GOV TO CHECK FOR ANY DELAYS OR CLOSURES.

An appointment for the performance of a ceremony is required.

There will be a \$25.00 **CASH/MASTERCARD/VISA only** charge at the time of the ceremony.

After you arrive, please allow 10-15 minutes for the preparation of the license. The actual ceremony will only take 5-10 minutes.

After the ceremony, you will receive a Certificate of Marriage. If you need a certified copy, there will be a \$5.50 **CASH/CHECK/MASTERCARD/VISA only** charge for each certification.

During our busiest times (Friday afternoons, days before holidays, month of June), there may be a slightly longer wait for the ceremony to take place.

Due to the Fire Code, your party **must be limited to no more than twelve (12) people**, excluding the couple being married.

Photographic equipment, i.e., cameras and video cameras **are** allowed in the wedding room, but no other type of equipment is allowed. When you arrive at the metal detector, please be sure to let the deputies know that you are attending a wedding ceremony, as the aforementioned equipment is not allowed in other parts of the Courthouse.

We ask that you **not** throw rice, birdseed, or any other confetti in the wedding room or on the grounds and sidewalks of the Courthouse. Any materials thrown on the sidewalks could create a hazard, causing persons entering or leaving the Courthouse to fall. For more information, please call 410-313-5850. Thank you.



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Congratulations!!!

If you intend to change your name after the marriage ceremony, it is necessary for you to take a **certified** copy of the Certificate of Marriage and appropriate identification with you to do the following:

If you are eligible for a social security number, the MVA will verify your new name through the Social Security Administration before changing your name or issuing a new license, permit or ID. There is a waiting period between applying at the Social Security Administration Office and the MVA to have your name changed. When you apply at your local Social Security Office, you should inquire as to the length of time that you must wait before going to the MVA to have your name changed.

1. Bring a **certified** copy of your Certificate of Marriage and your Social Security Card to the local office or visit the following link www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber/ and have your name changed on your card:

Social Security Administration in Columbia
8865 Stanford Blvd., Suite 110
Lakeside Building
Columbia, MD 21045
Phone: 1-800-772-1213 (General Information)
Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Monday through Friday); and

Please note that IRS records are generally updated 10 days after the records at the Social Security Administration are changed. For additional information, please check the IRS website <http://www.irs.gov>.

2. Bring a **certified** copy of your Certificate of Marriage and your Driver's License (and proof of residence if you have moved) to your local Motor Vehicle Administration office and have your name changed on your driver's license. **Marriage certificates signed by the Pastor/Minister/Clergy received after the ceremony was performed will not be accepted.** A certified copy of your Certificate of Marriage can be obtained from the court. <http://mdcourts.gov/clerks/howard/marriage.html>

Motor Vehicle Administration Express in Columbia
Columbia Business Center
6490 Dobbin Road
Columbia, MD 21045
Phone: 1-800-950-1682 (General Information)
<http://mva.state.md.us/>

3. In the hopes of making your change of name a smoother transition, below are some helpful suggestions:

Update your U.S. Passport. You will need to complete a form. Please see the U.S. Department of State website <http://www.travel.state.gov>.

Notify the Post Office. If you have moved due to your recent marriage, please make sure that you have notified the United States Post Office of your new residence. For additional information, please refer to the U.S. Postal Office web site <http://www.usps.com/>.

Change your personal paperwork. You should inform your banks, credit cards, mortgage providers, utilities, medical providers, insurance companies, professional license boards, and investment companies of your new name.

Start using your new name. Introduce yourself with your new name, change your name on your voice mail and answering machine, and start signing your new name on e-mails and letters.

Again, Congratulations!!!



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LOCATION & WAITING PERIOD OF MARRIAGE CEREMONY

If you are applying for a marriage license in Howard County, your marriage ceremony **must take place in Howard County.**

In accordance with Maryland Family Law Article ("F.L.") 2-406, a marriage license is **not effective until 6:00 a.m. on the second calendar day after the license is issued.** However, you may apply for a waiver of the 48 hour waiting period by making application to a judge of the Circuit Court for Howard County.

F.L. 2-406(d)(2) states "For good cause shown, a judge of the circuit court for the county in which the application is made may sign an authorization for a marriage license to become effective at a time before the waiting period expires, as stated in the authorization, if one (1) of the parties to be married is:

- (i) a resident of the State; or
- (ii) a member of the United States armed forces."