

# Getting Married In California

Follow these guidelines if you want to get married during your visit to California.

1. Go to any County Clerk's office to get a marriage license. You can apply online in some counties, but you will still have to go to the office to pick up your license.
2. You do not need to be a California or United States resident.
3. You must be at least 18 years old. People younger than 18 need written consent of at least one parent (or legal guardian) and permission from a California superior court judge.
4. Blood tests are not required for the marriage license.
5. Both partners must appear together when filing application and issuing license. Bring photo I. D. such as a passport or driver's license.
6. As of January, 2009, both parties can choose and list on the marriage license the name they will use after marriage. Discuss this before you go to avoid delays.
7. If you are divorced, you will need to know the exact date your divorce was finalized. If it was within the last 90 days, bring your divorce decree with you.
8. A marriage license is immediately valid and remains valid for 90 days anywhere in the state.
9. The license fee varies by county and can be paid in cash, pre-printed check with a California address or a money order written out to the County Clerk.
10. You can be married by a judge, county clerk, priest, minister or rabbi of any religious denomination who is 18 years old or over. Active and retired judges can also perform the ceremony. You also need one witness.
11. Larger cities perform marriage ceremonies by appointment at City Hall. There is an extra fee for the ceremony (\$35 to \$70).

## Location of Recorder/County Clerk's Office

Monterey County Court House  
168 West Alisal Street 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Salinas, CA

### Hours:

OFFICE HOURS ARE 8:00 AM TO 5:00 PM, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

DOCUMENT RECORDING HOURS ARE 8:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

MARRIAGE LICENSE HOURS ARE 8:00 AM TO 4:30 PM, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

Government offices often close at lunch time and are least busy in the middle of the week. Some locations take appointments. Most are not open on weekends.

**Phone:** (831) 755-5041

**Fax:** (831) 755-5064

**Email:** [recorderclerk@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:recorderclerk@co.monterey.ca.us)

### Other helpful links:

[www.usmarriagelaws.com](http://www.usmarriagelaws.com)

[http://gocalifornia.about.com/c/ht/00/07/How\\_Get\\_Marriage\\_License0962934838.htm](http://gocalifornia.about.com/c/ht/00/07/How_Get_Marriage_License0962934838.htm)