

Applications for Marriage Licenses

If you would like to apply for a Marriage License in Panola County, both applicants should appear in person at the Panola County Clerk's Office, 110 S. Sycamore, Room 201 in Carthage. Applications for Marriage Licenses are available from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday. The fee for a marriage license is \$82.00, and is payable by check, cash or credit/debit card.

Both applicants must provide a valid form of identification, such as a driver's license, passport or certified copy of a birth certificate. Applicants must provide their Social Security numbers, and provide us with the city, county and state of birth.

Applicants for marriage may choose to attend a premarital education workshop, which will reduce the fee for the marriage license by \$60.00 and waive the 72 hour waiting period. Visit www.twogetherintexas.com (512.206.5594) or www.wevownow.org (903.232.1700) for more information.

There is a 72 hour waiting period after the license is issued before the marriage ceremony may take place. The 72 hour waiting period may be waived by meeting one of the following:

- a) Applicants may appear together, in person, before the Panola County Court at Law Judge to obtain a waiver of the 72 hour waiting period *prior* to applying for the marriage license.
- b) The 72 hour waiting period does not apply to an applicant who is a member of the armed forces and presents his/her military ID to the County Clerk's Office.
- c) Applicants may present a valid premarital education completion certificate (see above) to the Clerk's Office.

If one applicant cannot appear in person to apply for a marriage license, an Absent Applicant Affidavit may be completed and submitted at the time of application. If **both** applicants are in the military and are stationed in another country, an Absent Applicant Affidavit may be completed and submitted by each applicant to purchase a marriage license. If one applicant cannot be present for the ceremony, is in the military **and** stationed overseas, a proxy may be designated on the Affidavit of Absent Applicant.

If either applicant has been divorced within 30 days of applying for a marriage license, the County Clerk will not be able to issue a license until the 31st day after the final decree of divorce is signed, unless the divorce decree includes a waiver. (A certified copy of the decree is required.) This rule applies unless the applicants are remarrying one another.

Effective September 1, 2017, the County Clerk may not issue a marriage license to any applicant under the age of 18, unless provided with a court order removing the disabilities of minority of the underage party for general purposes.

The Marriage License is valid for 90 days from the date of issuance, and the license should be returned to the Clerk's Office within 30 days of the marriage for recording. The original marriage license will then be returned by mail to the couple.

Marriage licenses may be purchased in any county in Texas to marry in Texas. If you are planning to marry in another state in the United States, or a foreign country, you should check with officials in that state or country to verify your Texas license will be accepted.

Questions? Please call the Panola County Clerk's Office at (903)693-0302