**FAQ’s About Your Marriage License**

Q. When should I get my marriage license?

A. I recommend you wait until approximately 30 days prior to your wedding date to get your marriage license. This way it’s before the last minute and gives you an extra 30 days should the wedding be postponed due to unforeseen circumstances. I send my clients an email as a reminder within about 30 days of their wedding date.

Q. Where can I get my marriage license?

A. What county of residence does your ID have? For instance, if your Driver’s License has a Columbia City address, you would go to the Whitley County Clerk of Courts to get your marriage license. If your ID is out-of-state, you would go to the Clerk of Courts for the county in which the wedding will take place. I can email you contact info for your County Clerk.

Q. Can I apply online?

A. Yes! Go to [www.in.gov/judiciary/2605.htm](http://www.in.gov/judiciary/2605.htm), and complete the application. You will both need to be present with your proof of age when you pick up the marriage license at the Clerk’s office.

Q. How much does a marriage license cost?

A. If you live in Indiana, and are getting married in Indiana, the cost is $18.00 plus $2.00 for the Clerk to mail your certified copy to you. If you live out-of-state and are getting married in Indiana, the cost is $60.00 plus $2.00 for the Clerk to mail your certified copy to you.

Q. What’s the difference between a marriage “license” and a marriage “certificate”?

A. A marriage “license” is my permission slip to solemnize the marriage and pronounce you husband and wife. This is the legal document that I will complete ***after*** performing your wedding and return to your County Clerk. The “certificate” is the souvenir of your marriage that states when and where the wedding took place. I will hand you back your certificate to keep after I have filled it out. I ask you to bring **ALL** the paperwork issued by your County Clerk to the wedding, and I’ll return to you what I don’t need.

Q. Who is responsible for returning the completed marriage license to my County Clerk?

A. I have 30 days to submit the completed marriage license to your County Clerk for processing. In instances where you much have your certified copy right away, I am willing to work with you, but it depends on how busy your County Clerk’s office is whether they will process it right away or not.

Q. What name does the Bride sign on the marriage license?

A. Sign your name as it appears on the license with your normal signature**. DO NOT** sign with the name you will take after you are married! The reason is very simple; Jane Doe is marrying John Smith to then *become* Jane Smith.

Q. What happens after the wedding ceremony? What can I expect to receive?

A. After your wedding ceremony, I complete the marriage license and return it to your County Clerk either in person or via Certified Mail. When your County Clerk receives the license, the ceremony information is entered into the computer and the Clerk generates the “certified (embossed stamp) copy of your marriage license which is then mailed to you if you paid the extra $2.00. If you need additional copies you will need to return to your County Clerk and pay an additional $2.00 per copy.

If you have any other questions that I haven’t covered here please feel free to email, call or text and I will answer you or refer you to your County Clerk.