

# DEAF SMITH COUNTY TEXAS

## Marriage Licenses

### Requirements for obtaining a Marriage License

Both parties must appear

\*Submit proof of identity and age

\*Certified copy of birth certificate, if age 16 or 17 only

\*Pay fee of \$82.00

18 years of age and over present photo identification issued by this state or another state, the U.S. or a foreign government. Driver's license, Military ID or passport are acceptable forms of identification. All documents must be current. We will not accept an expired document.

\*Both parties must be 18 years or older (ages 16 or 17 requires parental consent)

\*Both parties must provide their social security number or state that they have none

\*Both parties must provide all information as required on the application

\*Both parties must take the oath printed on the application and sign in the presence of the Clerk

Effective September 1, 2013 – A person who is incarcerated may not apply for a marriage license.

Ages 16 or 17 applicants must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Parent or guardian must provide valid identification and proof of parentage.

If either applicant is divorced the divorce must have been final for 30 days prior to obtaining a new marriage license unless the applicant has a court order waiving the 30 day period.

There is a 72 hour waiting period once the couple has obtained a marriage license. This means that the couple cannot get married until that 72 hour waiting period is over. The only way to waive the 72 hour waiting period is per a Judge's order or if one of the applicants is on active military duty or the couple completes the "Twogether in Texas" program and presents the certificate of completion.

### **"Twogether in Texas" Program**

Couples completing the State Approved Pre-marital Education Course may have the formal license fee reduced to \$22.00 and the 72-hour waiting period waived by presenting the state-issued course completion certificate when applying for the license. Please visit [www.twogetherintexas.com](http://www.twogetherintexas.com) to locate classes in your area.

### **Informal Marriage Licenses (Common Law)**

The County Clerk's office also issues Declaration of Informal Marriage Licenses sometimes referred to as a Common Law Marriage License. The cost is \$47.00. Both parties must be present. Current, valid identification must be provided, along with Social Security number. It is important to note that Informal Marriage Licenses are not recognized by the Federal Government. No one under the age of 18 may apply for this type of license.

### **Certified Copies of Marriage Licenses**

Marriage Licenses are public records and anyone wishing to obtain a copy may do so. The cost of a certified copy is \$22.00 for one page \$23.00 for two pages. Only certified copies may be issued. A request for a copy may be made in person or by sending payment along with the party's names and date of marriage to: County Clerk, 235 East 3<sup>rd</sup> St, Room 203, Hereford, Texas 79045.