

GETTING MARRIED IN THE BAHAMAS

Getting married in The Bahamas has been made easier! You can now get your Marriage license within 24 hours (please note the Registrar General's office is closed on weekends and Bahamian public holidays).

REQUIREMENTS FOR OBTAINING A MARRIAGE LICENSE IN THE BAHAMAS.

1. Both parties must be in The Bahamas at the time of the application.
2. Bahamian Law states that the couple must be resident in The Bahamas for 15 days prior to the date of the application. However, this –period can be waived by the Registrar General and you can now obtain your license in 24 hours. You can write the Registrar General prior to your arrival at P.O.Box N-532, Nassau, Bahamas or fax 242-322-5553. Your personal wedding coordinator can assist you with this.
3. If either party is a minor (a person under 18 years of age) parental consent is required. Forms of consent maybe obtained from the Registrar General’s office.
4. If either party has been divorced, the original final decree or certified copy (with a raised color seal) must be produced. For European residents the original decree or a certified copy (with a raised color seal) must be produced in the native language along with translated certified or notarized copy in English.
5. If either party is widowed, the death certificate of the deceased spouse must be produced.
6. If either party is unmarried, for a citizen or resident of the U.S.A., a declaration certifying this fact must be sworn before a US Consul at the American Embassy, Nassau, Bahamas for a fee of \$55.00. The American Embassy performs notarials on Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Please note the US Embassy is closed on American and Bahamian Holidays and weekends).
7. If either party is unmarried, and a citizen or resident of a country other than the USA, a declaration certifying this fact must be sworn before a Notary Public or other persons authorized to administer oaths in that country and must

accompany the application for the marriage license. The said declaration may also be obtained at a Notary Public in Nassau.

8. The parties must produce some form of photographic identification issued by a government office in the country where the parties reside. A passport is required for persons who are resident of a Commonwealth country.
9. The parties must produce evidence of the date of their arrival in The Bahamas (i.e. airline ticket, immigration card).
10. Persons desirous of being married in a Family Island (any island outside of New Providence or Grand Bahama) can obtain the marriage license at the Commissioner's office on that island and need not come to New Providence or Grand Bahama. Initial inquiries can be made at this office.

11. No blood test is necessary.

12. The fee for a marriage license is \$40.00.

Note: Marriage licenses are issued at the Rodney Bain Building on Parliament and Shirley Street, in Nassau which is opened to the public Monday to Friday between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (Close on weekends and Bahamian Public Holidays).

Proof of Residence

The Registrar General shall be entitled to insist upon proof of residency as he/she deems necessary.

Directions to the Registrar's office

After leaving the American Embassy turn right on Bay Street, pass McDonald's and continue down Bay Street until you reach Parliament Square (marked by large, pink government buildings – the walk should take about 10 minutes). Turn right on Parliament Street. Continue to the traffic light that marks the intersection of Parliament and Shirley Streets, cross over Shirley Street to the Rodney Bain building, where the Registrar General is located.

Apostille copy of marriage certificate

For couples from European Countries who may also require an apostille copy of the marriage certificate, this can be obtained after the ceremony once the couple makes an application at the Registrar General's office in Nassau. The process takes seven to ten days.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT **Requirements For Obtaining a Marriage Licence in The Bahamas**

- (1) Both parties must be in The Commonwealth of The Bahamas at the time of the application.
- (2) One party must have resided in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas for not less than 15 days prior to the date of the application; but the Registrar General has a discretion, on good cause shown, to waive this residential requirement. A waiver will not normally be granted unless one party has resided in The Bahamas for three days. The application for the waiver should be made at the same time of the application for the licence.
- (3) If either party is a minor (a person under 18 years of age) parental consent is required. Forms of consent may be obtained from this office.
- (4) If either party has been divorced, the original final decree or a certified copy must be produced. If either party is widowed, the death certificate of the deceased spouse must be produced. If either party is unmarried, being a citizen or resident of the U.S.A., a declaration certifying this fact must be sworn before a U.S. Consul at the American Embassy, Nassau, Bahamas.
- (5) If either party is unmarried, being a citizen or resident of a country other than the U.S.A., a declaration certifying this fact must be sworn before a Notary Public or other person authorized to administer oaths in that country and must accompany the application for the marriage licence.
- (6) The parties must produce some form of identification which has a photograph attached. The identification document must have been issued by a Government Office in the country where the parties reside.
- (7) The parties must produce evidence of the date of their arrival in The Bahamas.
- (8) No blood test is necessary.
- (9) The fee for the licence is \$20.00.

NOTE: Marriage licences are issued at the office of the Registrar General in Nassau. This office is opened to the public Mondays to Fridays between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Proof of Residence

The Registrar General shall be entitled to insist upon such proof of residence as he deems necessary.