

20 - Minor Marriages

The Family Division of the 46th Circuit Trial Court is authorized to approve or deny a minor's request to marry if the female is pregnant or has a child. The under age applicant and his/her parents or legal guardian must live in this county.

In all marriages, both applicants must present:

- 1) A birth certificate
- 2) Proof of VD/HIV counseling and test
- 3) Blood tests on Michigan Health Certificate forms. Blood tests must be done within 30 days of application for license. VD/HIV counseling must be done within 60 days of application.

Whose permission is required for us to marry, if we are both under the age of 16?

When both applicants are under the age 16, you will need the consent of all natural or adoptive living parents. Even if the parents are divorced, you will still need consent from the non-custodial parent.

What if only one of us is under 16?

When only one applicant is under the age of 16, you will need the consent of that applicant's natural or adoptive parents. If the parents are divorced, the custodial parent is the only one who can give legal consent.

If the parents are divorced, is the non-custodial parent notified of the marriage?

Yes. The non-custodial parent will be notified of the marriage license application by personal service or registered mail at the last known address. In addition, the custodial parent must complete an affidavit (sworn statement) stating that the non-custodial parent has been notified.

What if the non-custodial parent objects?

The non-custodial parent has 5 days to enter an objection to the court.

What if the parent is in jail or a mental institution?

The consent of that parent would not be required.

What if either parent is no longer living?

You must present 2 copies of the death certificate.

Will we need proof of pregnancy?

Yes. The female must present a doctor's statement verifying the pregnancy or lab results of the pregnancy test if she is less than 2 months pregnant. If the applying couple has a child, you must present the child's birth certificate.

What if the male is in the armed forces?

He must show his leave papers, have results of a Michigan blood test, and allow enough time for license processing.

What if we are both unemployed?

The license will not be approved. One applicant must present proof of employment and earnings through recent pay stubs or a letter from the employer.

What if one of the applicant's is on probation?

Any applicant on probation must have written consent of his/her probation officer.

What are the fees?

The fee for a marriage license is set by the Court.

If you are being married by a clergyman, you must present a statement written on church stationary signed by the clergyman indicating that he is willing to perform the ceremony.

The clergyman must also provide you with his own undated certificate. This is your only legal proof of the marriage.

Where do we apply for the marriage license?

You must bring all the necessary forms to the Family Court. See back of brochure for Court locations.

All documents must show your name as it appears on the legal birth records. Do not use nicknames or abbreviations.

