

GENERAL MARRIAGE INFORMATION

STATE OF NH requirements

A couple wishing to be married in the State of New Hampshire may complete a license application at any NH city/town clerk's office regardless of their place of residence. This includes out-of-state residents as well. Once a valid license is issued, the couple is free to be married within any city/town in New Hampshire. At the time of the marriage the license is signed by the officiating clergy and returned by the clergy to the office of issuance.

For clergy who reside in NH:

- Clergy who reside in the State of New Hampshire are automatically licensed by the State to perform marriages in the State of New Hampshire.

For clergy who do not reside in NH:

- Clergy who do not reside in the State must submit an application to the Secretary of State's Office requesting a one-day license to perform a wedding. (*Application included in this brochure and on the website of the Secretary of State, <http://www.sos.nh.gov/marriage.htm>*).

For Clergy Visiting the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire

- Clergy who are not canonically resident in the Diocese of New Hampshire must request permission from the Bishop to officiate in the diocese at a marriage.
- *Permission to Officiate* form may be submitted to the Bishop's Office at least 30 days prior.
- A letter from the visiting clergy's bishop stating she/he is a priest in good standing should accompany the Permission to Officiate form.
- If either party has been previously married, a letter from the visiting clergy's bishop granting permission to her/him to perform the marriage is required.
- Once the Bishop grants permission to officiate in the diocese, a signed copy of the *Permission to Officiate* form will be sent to the visiting clergy.
- Clergy must notify the rector or priest-in-charge of the parish in whose cure she/he will be officiating to make arrangements to record marriage in their parish register if not taking place in an Episcopal Church.
- Rector or priest-in-charge of cure will receive a copy of Bishop's permission to officiate.
- Declaration of Intention must be signed by both parties.
- Premarital Christian counseling, whether by the officiating clergy or another person, is a canonical requirement.