

State of Alabama
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Instructions for Completing and Filing an Alabama Marriage Certificate (for Adults)

Effective August 29, 2019, the process for entering into a legal marriage in Alabama changes, pursuant to Alabama Act 2019-340. Under the new law, persons wishing to become married are no longer required to file an application for a marriage license with the county probate court, and the courts will no longer issue marriage licenses. The Alabama Marriage Certificate form should now be completed by the persons entering into marriage and delivered to the probate court for recording. Once properly completed and recorded by the probate court, the marriage is legal. A wedding ceremony may be performed, but a ceremony is no longer required for a recognized marriage in Alabama.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW. FAILURE TO PROPERLY COMPLETE THE FORM AND DELIVER IT TO THE PROBATE COURT WITHIN THE TIME REQUIRED MAY AFFECT THE VALIDITY OF YOUR MARRIAGE.

This form appears in fillable pdf format and may be printed once all required fields have been completed. Persons without computer access may be able to obtain printed copies of the form for completion by hand from some county probate courts. **HANDWRITTEN FORMS SHOULD BE PRINTED AND LEGIBLE. THIS IS THE ONLY DOCUMENT YOU WILL RECEIVE AS PROOF OF YOUR MARRIAGE.**

1. Spouse 1 should complete Blocks 1 through 12 and Block 34, providing all of the requested information, and mark the appropriate block to the left as “Groom,” “Bride,” or “Spouse.” **Be sure to enter the Social Security Number for Spouse 1 in Block 34. The Social Security Number will not appear on certified copies of the Marriage Certificate.**
2. Spouse 2 should complete Blocks 13 through 24 and Block 35, providing all of the requested information, and mark the appropriate block to the left as “Bride,” “Groom,” or “Spouse.” **Be sure to enter the Social Security Number for Spouse 2 in Block 35. The Social Security Number will not appear on certified copies of the Marriage Certificate.**
3. Prepare to print the Marriage Certificate form. Check your printer settings to ensure that the printer is set to print as actual size, not “fit to page” or another modified size. The entire form should be printed on one page (front side only) of 8.5 x 11 inch white or light paper.
4. Spouse 1 should sign and date the printed form in Block 25. Spouse 1’s signature must be witnessed by a notary in Block 29, and the notary must place his/her notary seal on the form in Block 27. **Information on the form cannot be changed or added once the form has been notarized.**
5. Spouse 2 should sign and date the printed form in Block 26. Spouse 2’s signature must be witnessed by a notary in Block 30, and the notary must place his/her notary seal on the form in Block 28. **Information on the form cannot be changed or added once the form has been notarized.**
6. By signing the form, each spouse is affirming that all of the following are true: he/she is not currently married; he/she is legally competent to enter into a marriage; the spouses are not related by blood or adoption such that the marriage would violate §13A-13-3, Code of Alabama, 1975; he/she is entering into the marriage voluntarily and of his/her own free will and not under duress or undue influence; and he/she is 16 years of age or older.
7. **Blocks 31 through 33 are for court use only. DO NOT MARK IN OR COMPLETE BLOCKS 31 THROUGH 33.**
8. The original completed, signed, and notarized form must be delivered to an Alabama county probate court for recording **within 30 days of the latter of the dates of the spouses’ signatures**. See the Frequently Asked Questions for further information.
9. You must pay the required recording fee to the judge of probate at the time you present your form to the probate court. You may request a certified copy from the court when you record your Marriage Certificate (an additional fee may be imposed by the court for certified copies). The probate court will keep the original form and forward the certificate to the Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics. The Center for Health Statistics will file and maintain the certificate in its records.

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10. Once the certificate has been received and filed by the Center for Health Statistics, you may request additional certified copies of the certificate in person at any Alabama county health department. For instructions on how to request certified copies of the certificate in person, online, by mail, or by phone, visit the Department's website at <http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/vitalrecords/marriage-certificates.html>.

11. **If properly recorded by the probate court within 30 days of the latter of the dates of the spouses' signatures, THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE MARRIAGE IS THE LATTER OF THE DATES OF THE SPOUSES' SIGNATURES.**

Questions? Consult the Frequently Asked Questions at <http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/vitalrecords/marriage-certificates.html>, or you may call the Center for Health Statistics at (334) 206-2714.