

MARRIAGE INTENTIONS IN THE TOWN OF BARNSTABLE

- **When should we apply?**

The marriage license is valid for 60 days from the day you apply (which includes the 3-day waiting period). Apply for your license no sooner than 60 days before your planned wedding date.

- **Is a waiver of the three-day waiting period available?**

If there is reason to dispense with the three-day waiting period, a couple may apply to a Justice of a Massachusetts Probate or District Court to have the license issued without delay. Upon such court order, the license may be issued without delay. The parties, prior to issuance of the license, must present the certified copy of the court order to the Clerk which will be retained.

- **When are you open?**

Our hours for Marriage Intentions are as follows:
Monday through Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Closed Saturdays, Sundays and all legal holidays

- **Do I need an appointment to apply for a marriage license?**

No appointment is necessary; however, a couple must appear at our Clerk's Office together, in person, to file a "Notice of Intention to Marry". Please allow approximately thirty minutes for completion of your application.

- **Do I have to apply where I live?**

If the marriage is to take place in Massachusetts, you may apply for your license at any City or Town Clerk's Office in Massachusetts regardless of where you live. Residency is not a requirement for marriage in Massachusetts. Fees and hours vary from office to office.

If your marriage is going to take place outside of Massachusetts, you must contact the local officials in the jurisdiction where the marriage will take place. Marriage laws vary from state to state. .

- **Is a blood test required before a license can be issued?**

No, a blood test is not required.

- **What if one or both of us has been divorced?**

You are not required to present a divorce decree when filing intentions to marry. However, it is extremely important that an individual who has been divorced be certain that his/her divorce is absolute. In Massachusetts, a divorce does not become absolute until 90 days after the divorce nisi has been granted, regardless of the grounds for divorce. The Clerk reserves the right to require a divorce decree under certain conditions.

- **Are witnesses required to be present at the ceremony?**

Massachusetts statute does not require that witnesses be present at your ceremony.