

## **WORCESTER: INSTRUCTIONS – Modified Marriage Application Process – COVID 19**

A Maryland marriage license can be used—and a marriage ceremony can take place—*only* in the county where the marriage license is issued. The license must be obtained and presented to the official who will be performing the marriage ceremony before the ceremony may take place. It is the responsibility of the parties to know the Maryland county in which the ceremony site is located, and to obtain the marriage license from the Clerk of Circuit Court for that county or, if in Baltimore City, the Clerk of Circuit Court for Baltimore City. Please note that Baltimore City and Baltimore County are two separate and distinct political subdivisions, and a license issued by the Clerk of Circuit Court for one political subdivision cannot be used in the other.

### **COMPLETE FORM (TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY) AND SUBMIT PAYMENT**

1. Determine which Maryland county/Baltimore City the marriage ceremony will take place. The license must be obtained from the Clerk of Circuit Court for that county/Baltimore City.
2. **Clerk of the Circuit Court for Worcester County Marriage License fee is \$35.00 by money order.** Contact information for Clerks of Circuit Courts can be found at <http://www.mdcourts.gov/circuit/index.html> .
3. Complete the application.
  - a. Current marital status. This section must include information about every previous marriage, including the date and the state or foreign country in which the marriage ended and whether each marriage ended in death or divorce and where that took place. Attach an additional sheet if there is not enough room on the form for this information.
  - b. Sign and date the application and provide a daytime phone number. **Please note: You are signing under penalty of perjury and swearing or affirming that the information you have provided is true and accurate.**

The license will be mailed to the Party 1: address unless other instructions are provided with the application.

4. If a party to be married is under the age of 18, and a parent or guardian is providing consent, the “Consent of Parent or Guardian” form must be completed and signed by the parent or guardian and witnessed by a Notary Public. \*
5. You may submit your completed and signed application, along with any Consent of Parent or Guardian forms if applicable, to the Clerk by courthouse drop box, or first-class mail. If you are submitting your application by drop box, you may include payment by

cash or money order. If you are submitting your application by mail, you may include a money order for payment of the license fee, payable to *Clerk of Circuit Court for Worcester County*.

## **ADMINISTRATION OF OATH**

6. It is recommended that the applicant(s) complete and mail the application at least three weeks before the wedding date to allow time for delivery by the US Post Office, and for resolution of any problems the Clerk may have with the application. Be sure to include a daytime phone number for at least one of the parties, so the Clerk can contact the parties if there are any problems with the application, or if additional information is required.
7. Once the application is processed, the Clerk will mail the marriage license to the applicant. During the emergency applicants are discouraged from picking up the license at the Clerk's office.
8. In Maryland, marriage licenses do not take effect until 6:00 a.m. on the second day after the license is issued, and licenses ordinarily remain valid for 6 months. During the emergency associated with COVID 19, the 6-month time period is tolled. For any marriage license issued during the emergency, the license is valid during the period of emergency and for up to 6 months after the declaration of emergency has been rescinded.

\* NOTE: Additional documentation (e.g.: birth certificate; guardianship order) may be required to show proof that the consenting person is in fact a parent or guardian of the minor party. Contact the Clerk's office in advance to find out what additional documentation, if any, will be required.

Maryland marriage laws can be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Family Law Article, Title 2.

**Mailing Completed Application and \$35 Fee to:  
Clerk of the Circuit Court for Worcester County  
1 West Market St., Court House Room 104  
Snow Hill, MD 21863**

*The license will be mailed to the Party 1 address unless other instructions are provided with the application.*