

British Columbia Marriage Laws

How to get a marriage license in BC

Eligibility

Anyone who is 19 years of age or older and meets with the requirements of the prohibited Degrees of Consanguinity (the blood relationships between relatives who are disallowed to marry) may obtain a license. A minor, 16 – 19 years of age, may be married if he or she obtains the necessary written consent on the form Consent of Parent or Guardian to Marriage. (A judge may use his discretion and waive this form if the case is presented to him.) Those who are under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs, and those who are declared mentally incompetent, will not be granted license to marry or have a marriage solemnized.

Acquiring a License

Marriage licenses can be obtained from issuers appointed by the Director of Vital Statistics from any branch of Coast Capital Savings Credit Union (including the Sooke Branch which is open Monday through Saturday) at a cost of \$85.00. At the request of the issuer, you may be asked to produce the following documents pertaining to yourself and/or your future spouse: a birth certificate or passport, and if previously married, the original or a notarized copy of the divorce certificate or annulment certificate.

Only one partner need apply for the license. One of the partners must pick up the license personally.

An applicant whose spouse is presumed to be dead must meet the terms of and present, a Presumption of Death order. Marriage license issuers are located in almost every community. Their names and phone numbers can be obtained by contacting the Division of Vital Statistics in Victoria at 1-800- 663-8328, (250) 952-2681, 818 Fort Street.

Officers

Religious representatives registered with the Division of Vital Statistics are authorized to perform marriages. The Division also appoints Marriage Commissioners who are authorized to perform civil marriages.

Time Limitations

The marriage must take place within three months after the purchase of a license.

- In order for a marriage to be valid, the marriage license must be presented at the ceremony.

Marriage Commissioners (Civil Ceremony) in Sooke are:

- Kerry Fedosenko - 250.642.3335 kerryfed@telus.net
- Brenda Hay - 250-480-5132 bhay20@telus.net
- Brenda Parkinson 250.642.5638 brendaparkinson79@shaw.ca

Officers (Religious Ceremony):

- Joyce Murphy – 250.596.1506 laychaplains@victoriaunitarian.ca
- Liz Graham – 250.384.4351 liz.graham@shaw.ca