

The Marriage Certificate

After the marriage ceremony, the Marriage Officer will give you a Certified Copy of the Marriage Register or “Bridal Copy” which you will take to the Registrar General’s Department (RGD) Jamaica , to obtain your Marriage Certificate.

The Marriage Officer is expected to register the marriage by submitting the Marriage Register to the RGD before you are able to apply for this certificate. Persons who live abroad may ask the Marriage Officer to submit the documents to the RGD as early as possible, as a matter of urgency, so that the RGD can have the Marriage Certificate ready in time for your return to your homeland. You may contact the RGD in respect of its express service. The other usual requirements from RGD will have to be observed.

(For further information on how to obtain your Marriage Certificate you may visit the Registrar General’s Department’s website www.rgd.gov.jm or telephone 876-749-0550 or 876-619-1260)



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Ministry of Justice

“Balancing Rights and Responsibilities”

Minister’s (Marriage) Licence



MINISTER'S (MARRIAGE) LICENCE

This is a Licence granted by the Minister of Justice giving authority to a Marriage Officer to marry a couple in Jamaica in keeping with Section 21 of the Marriage Act., which states:

In any case of persons residing in Jamaica intending that a marriage shall be solemnized between them, the Minister may on application by or on behalf either of the parties, if he thinks fit, upon proof being made to his satisfaction that there is no impediment of kindred or alliance or other lawful hindrance to the intended marriage, and where consent is required, that the consent of the persons authorized to give such consent has been obtained, grant a licence for such marriage as nearly as may be in the form set forth in Schedule G.

The applicant is required to:-

1. Have a Declaration Form completed by a person (Declarant) who has knowledge of the impending marriage and signed by the Declarant in the presence of a Justice of the Peace in Jamaica. The Declarant can be a friend or family member. *(Declaration Forms are available at the Customer Service Desk, Ministry of Justice, Ground Floor, Air Jamaica Building, 72 Harbour Street Kingston, Jamaica or can be downloaded from the Ministry's website at www.moj.gov.jm)*

Please note that on the Declaration Form:

“Names in full” mean first, middle, and last names

“Condition” means bachelor/spinster/divorced/widow/widower

“Calling” means occupation

“Dwelling places and parishes” mean Jamaican address and parish (es) of both parties.

If either of the parties is residing abroad, twenty-four (24) hours residence in the Island is required and at which time a Jamaican address can be used.

2. Collect a blank Minister's (Marriage) Licence Form, from the Ministry of Justice *at the Customer Service Desk, Ground Floor, Air Jamaica Building, 72 Harbour Street Kingston, Jamaica.*

3. Then make a payment (stamp duty) of Four Thousand Jamaican dollars (J\$4,000.00) (or such applicable fee that is in force from time to time.) at the Stamp Duty Office located at 111 Harbour Street, Kingston, Jamaica, where the blank Marriage Licence Form will be stamped after payment.

4. Return both the completed Declaration Form and the stamped Minister's (Marriage) Licence Form to the Ministry of Justice along with the following supporting documents for both parties:

- Passport or Driver's Licence.
- Birth Certificate.
- Final Divorce Decree/Decree Absolute (where applicable).
- Death Certificate (where applicable).
- Certified documents supporting any change of name (where applicable).

If you are under eighteen years of age, a letter of consent is required from your parent/ or legal guardian signed in the presence of and certified by a Justice of the Peace.

5. Once the documents are found to be satisfactory the Licence will be issued.

Please note that all documents presented must be in English. If originals are in another language they should be translated by a certified translator whose certification of authenticity should be attached.

Processing Time

For walk-in applicants, the Licence can be processed within a working day inclusive of the trip to the Stamp Duty Office.

Persons living abroad who plan to get married in Jamaica are required to be in the island at least 24 hours before the marriage ceremony.

The Difference between the Minister's (Marriage) Licence and the Marriage Certificate

The Minister's (Marriage) Licence is valid for three month and permits the Marriage Officer to perform the marriage ceremony.

The Marriage Certificate is proof that the marriage has taken place. This is issued after the marriage, upon application to the Registrar General's Department.

