

General Information for Marriage Ceremonies in BC

Marriage Licences

At some time in the three months prior to your wedding date, you will need to buy a marriage licence. Only one member of the couple is required to apply for a marriage licence, but he or she must apply in person, and show primary identification for both parties.

Examples of primary identification include:

- Birth certificate
- IMM/immigration form
- Permanent resident card
- Citizenship card

The marriage licence issuer may accept a passport or driver's licence in some circumstances.

Cost

A marriage licence costs \$100, and is non-refundable. However, if you lose your licence, you can return to the place where you bought it, and ask for a replacement.

Search for a Marriage Licence Issuer

To search for marriage licence issuer in your area, click on [Search for a Marriage Licence Issuer](#).

Marriage Commissioners

Marriage commissioners provide couples with flexible nonreligious options for their wedding. Any person performing a marriage ceremony in B.C. must be registered with the Vital Statistics Agency.

Note: Vital Statistics does not authorize marriage commissioners to provide wedding planning, or consultation services.

Marriage Commissioners in Penticton

Name	Phone	Cell	Email
Evelyn J Blaine	250-770-7865	N/A	eblaine@shaw.ca
Heather Frances Byer	250-276-5936	250-490-1798	hbyer@shaw.ca
Terri L Chambers	778-476-4445	250-488-8022	terri.l.chambers@shaw.ca
Marlene Trenholm	250-493-7498	250-490-7723	marriagecommish@telus.net

Marriage Commissioner Fees

A base civil ceremony includes one hour for ceremony preparation, meeting with the couple, rehearsal, travel time and performing the ceremony.

Base Civil Ceremony	\$75.00
GST	\$3.75
Total	\$78.75

Additional Fees

Marriage commissioners are permitted to charge additional fees for the following:

- Time spent over the one hour included in the base civil ceremony: \$25/hour billed in 15-minute increments
- Mileage (distance travelled to and from the marriage ceremony and rehearsal): \$0.53/km
- Parking or ferry costs (if applicable)

Marriage commissioners ask for fees and provide a receipt before the marriage ceremony to avoid interruptions before or after the ceremony. However, the couple getting married is responsible for any additional costs incurred by last minute changes.

Marriage Registration

At any wedding in British Columbia, the couple, two witnesses and the officiant marrying them must sign the Marriage Licence and Registration of Marriage after the ceremony has been performed.

Within 48 hours of the wedding, the officiant submits the registration to the Vital Statistics Agency where the registration information becomes a permanent legal record. Vital Statistics cannot issue a marriage certificate until the marriage is registered.