



# Lafayette County

MISSISSIPPI

## FACTS ABOUT OBTAINING A MARRIAGE LICENSE IN LAFAYETTE COUNTY, MS

**PER MISSISSIPPI CODE ANNOTATED 93-1-13 AND MISSISSIPPI CODE ANNOTATED 93-1-19  
A MARRIAGE LICENSE MUST BE ISSUED BEFORE THE CEREMONY IS PERFORMED.**

- TO APPLY FOR A MARRIAGE LICENSE – BOTH PARTIES MUST APPEAR IN PERSON AT THE LAFAYETTE COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK’S OFFICE LOCATED AT: 1 COURTHOUSE SQUARE, SUITE 101, OXFORD, MS 38655 (THIS IS THE BIG COURTHOUSE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SQUARE)
- YOU **DO NOT** HAVE TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT TO GET YOUR MARRIAGE LICENSE. WE ARE OPEN FROM 8-5 (INCLUDING LUNCH).
- **THE FEE IS \$37.00 CASH – EXACT CHANGE (WE DO NOT ACCEPT DEBIT/CREDIT).**
- BOTH PARTIES MUST BE PRESENT, 21 YEARS OLD AND HAVE A GOVERNMENT ISSUED IDENTIFICATION CARD (DRIVER’S LICENSE, PASSPORT, ETC...)
  - IF EITHER PARTY IS NOT 21 YEARS OLD, A PARENT MUST BE PRESENT.
  - THE PARENT MUST PROVIDE IDENTIFICATION AND WILL BE REQUIRED TO SIGN PAPERWORK, AS WELL. **THIS IS A STATE LAW.**
- THE MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATION MUST BE COMPLETED. THE FORM CAN BE FOUND ONLINE OR BLANK APPLICATIONS ARE IN THE LOBBY OF THE LAFAYETTE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURTHOUSE. IT WILL SPEED UP THE PROCESS IF YOU HAVE THIS DOCUMENTATION COMPLETED UPON ARRIVAL.
  - If you lose your marriage license and all accompanying paperwork before the ceremony – you will have to start the process over from the beginning – including the \$37.00 fee.
- YOU **CAN** GET MARRIED THE SAME DAY YOU RECEIVE YOUR MARRIAGE LICENSE – THERE IS NOT A WAITING PERIOD IN MISSISSIPPI.
- YOU DO NOT HAVE TO HAVE A WITNESS TO GET YOUR MARRIAGE LICENSE.
- YOU DO NOT HAVE TO HAVE A WITNESS TO GET MARRIED.
- THE LAFAYETTE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT **DOES NOT** PERFORM MARRIAGE CEREMONIES.
- YOU **DO** HAVE TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT TO HAVE A JUSTICE COURT JUDGE PERFORM YOUR CEREMONY. THEIR NUMBER IS: 662-234-0727.
  - **THEIR FEE IS \$35.00 CASH (THEY DO NOT MAKE CHANGE).**
- IF YOU SCHEDULE A JUDGE TO PERFORM YOUR CEREMONY AT THE JUSTICE COURT AND PLAN TO GET YOUR MARRIAGE LICENSE THE SAME DAY, PLAN ACCORDINGLY.
  - IT TAKES APPROXIMATELY 15-20 MINUTES TO COMPLETE THE PAPERWORK AT THE LAFAYETTE COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK’S OFFICE AND,
  - IT TAKES ABOUT 5-10 MINUTES TO DRIVE TO THE LAFAYETTE COUNTY JUSTICE COURT.
    - THEIR ADDRESS IS: 72 CR 406 (FD BUDDY EAST PARKWAY), OXFORD, MS 38655.

- **WHO CAN PERFORM MARRIAGE CEREMONIES?** – THE LAFAYETTE COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK’S OFFICE HAS NO GOVERNING AUTHORITY WITH REGARDS TO ORDAINMENT. THIS IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE WEDDING PARTY. YOU MUST RESEARCH THIS ON YOUR OWN. WE HAVE INCLUDED MS LAW: § 93-1-17 BELOW. IF YOU STILL HAVE QUESTIONS, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO SPEAK TO SOMEONE IN FAMILY LAW TO FIND OUT THE EXACT STEPS THAT NEED TO BE TAKEN FOR SOMEONE TO BE ORDAINED.

**(MS LAW: § 93-1-17):**

- *Any minister of the gospel ordained according to the rules of his church or society, in good standing;*
- *Any Rabbi or other spiritual leader of any other religious body authorized under the rules of such religious body to solemnize rites of matrimony and being in good standing;*
- *Any judge of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, circuit court, chancery court or county court may solemnize the rites of matrimony between any persons anywhere within this state who shall produce a license granted as herein directed;*  
*Justice court judges and members of the boards of supervisors may likewise solemnize the rites of matrimony within their respective counties.*
- *Any marriages performed by a mayor of a municipality prior to March 14, 1994 are valid provided such marriages satisfy the requirements of Section 93-1-18.*

- WHEN YOU RECEIVE YOUR MARRIAGE LICENSE – **YOU ARE NOT MARRIED.** THIS IS JUST THE LICENSE TO BE ABLE TO GET MARRIED EITHER BY A JUDGE, PASTOR, REVEREND, OFFICIANT, ETC.

- AFTER THE CEREMONY, YOU WILL NEED A “**CERTIFIED** MARRIAGE LICENSE” AND THIS IS OBTAINED IN THE LAFAYETTE COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK’S OFFICE (SAME PLACE YOUR MARRIAGE LICENSE WAS ISSUED). A “**CERTIFIED MARRIAGE LICENSE**” CANNOT BE OBTAINED WITHOUT THE TWO FORMS THAT ARE SENT WITH THE BRIDAL PARTY, WHICH ARE:

- **THE STATISTICAL RECORD FORM (SHORT FORM)** – COMPLETELY FILLED OUT BY THE PERSON PERFORMING YOUR CEREMONY (BOTH PARTIES AND THE DEPUTY CLERK WILL SIGN AT THE OFFICE)
- **THE BOTTOM PART OF YOUR MARRIAGE LICENSE** – SIGNED BY THE PERSON PERFORMING YOUR CEREMONY
- **THESE TWO DOCUMENTS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE LAFAYETTE COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK’S OFFICE WITHIN 14 DAYS OF YOUR CEREMONY**

- THE LAFAYETTE COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK’S OFFICE PROVIDES A RETURN ENVELOPE SO PAPERWORK CAN BE MAILED OR IT CAN BE DROPPED OFF IN PERSON AT THE LAFAYETTE COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK’S OFFICE AFTER THE CEREMONY.
- IT WILL TAKE APPROXIMATELY 5-10 MINUTES TO GET THE DATA ENTERED AND YOUR “**CERTIFIED MARRIAGE LICENSE(S)**” PRINTED. YOU WILL LEAVE WITH YOUR DOCUMENTATION.

- **NOTE: THIS WILL BE CLEARLY COMMUNICATED AT THE TIME YOU GET YOUR MARRIAGE LICENSE.**

- If you do not reside in Lafayette County and want to pre-pay for your CERTIFIED MARRIAGE LICENSE(S), you can do so the day you apply for your marriage license and they will be mailed to you after our office receives back the: Vital Statistics Form and the bottom part of your marriage license – completed by whomever performed your ceremony.

- THE NAMES ON THE MARRIAGE LICENSE WILL REFLECT WHO YOU ARE THE DAY YOU APPLY FOR YOUR LICENSE AND WILL NEVER CHANGE IN OUR OFFICE.
  - THE FIRST TIME A NAME CHANGE WILL OCCUR IS WHEN DOCUMENTATION IS PROVIDED TO THE DMV, SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION OR PASSPORT AGENCY AND THEY ISSUE THEIR DOCUMENTATION AND/OR IDENTIFICATION.
- BOTH PARTIES DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO RETURN THIS PAPERWORK BACK TO THE LAFAYETTE COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK'S OFFICE.
- THE COST FOR THE FIRST "CERTIFIED MARRIAGE LICENSE" IS \$17.00. ANY ADDITIONAL COPIES, THE SAME DAY ARE \$5.00. (YOU MAY NEED COPIES FOR: BANKING, INSURANCE, SCHOOL, ETC.)
- THE THREE AGENCIES THAT DO REQUIRE A "CERTIFIED MARRIAGE LICENSE" INCLUDE:
  - LAFAYETTE COUNTY DMV – YOU MAY NEED TO CALL TO VERIFY WHAT OTHER DOCUMENTATION MAY BE NEEDED AT: 662-513-6601.
  - SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION – THERE IS AN APPLICATION THAT MUST ACCOMPANY THE "CERTIFIED MARRIAGE LICENSE" – WEBITE DETAILS ARE INCLUDED IN THE PAPERWORK YOU WILL RECEIVE THE DAY YOU APPLY FOR YOUR MARRIAGE LICENSE.
  - PASSPORT AGENCY

### **HELPFUL SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION LINKS:**

SOCIAL SECURITY WEBSITE: <https://www.ssa.gov/> / MENU OF OPTIONS / CHANGE YOUR NAME / APPLICATION:  
BE SURE TO READ CAREFULLY WHAT OTHER DOCUMENTS ARE NEEDED ALONG WITH THE APPLICATION

### **SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICES**

**ALL OFFICES ARE OPEN FROM 9-4 / Monday – Friday / NO APPT. NECESSARY BUT RECOMMENDED**

**TUPELO, MS**

199 Saddle Creek Drive  
Tupelo, MS 38801  
Phone: 866-504-4267

**GRENADA, MS**

2383 Sunset Drive  
Grenada, MS 38901  
Phone: 866-593-8523

**OLIVE BRANCH, MS**

8760 Mid S Drive  
Olive Branch, MS 38654  
Phone: 866-739-4771

**JACKSON, MS**

Dr. A.H. McCoy Federal Bldg.  
100 W. Capitol Street  
Jackson, MS 39269  
866-331-8135



**CONGRATULATIONS – JEFF BUSBY, LAFAYETTE COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK**

1 COURTHOUSE SQUARE, SUITE 101, OXFORD, MS 38655 / PHONE: 662-234-4951 / WEBSITE: <https://lafayettems.com/circuit-clerk/>