

# windsor essex county WEDDING GUIDE

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## Getting Married in Ontario

In Ontario, you can get married if you're eighteen or older. No one under sixteen can marry. If you are sixteen or seventeen, you need written consent from your parent or guardian.

A marriage can be performed under the authority of a marriage licence or the publication of banns. The publication of banns is valid if you both worship regularly at your own church in Canada, and if neither of you has been divorced.

A marriage licence can be obtained through the Municipal Clerk's office at City Hall - it costs \$135.00 cash or debit. Both of you must sign the application, and at least one of you must apply in person. If only one of you appears in person, you must have proof of age of the other person and the application must be signed by both applicants. You don't need blood tests, medical certificate, or proof of residency. Bring two pieces of identification such as a birth certificate (along with change of name certificates), current passport, records of immigrant landing or Canadian citizenship card, along with photo identification.

A marriage licence is valid anywhere in Ontario for three months after it is issued. It is not valid until the third day after it is issued, although special exceptions can be made in some cases.

A marriage can be performed by a minister, a member of the clergy who is registered under the Marriage Act, a judge, justice of the peace, or a marriage officiator.

You must have a marriage licence in order to have a civil ceremony performed by a judge, a justice of the peace or a marriage officiant.

You must arrange for two witnesses to be present at the ceremony. If you have been married before, you must provide certain documents that prove the marriage was dissolved or annulled or that the former spouse is deceased.