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# MARRIAGE MAKERS

WEDDING OFFICIANTS

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## OBTAINING A MARRIAGE LICENSE IN NEW MEXICO

Marriage licenses for your New Mexico wedding are issued by the county clerks in the various counties within the state of New Mexico. You will usually find the County Clerk's office inside the county courthouse, wherever that is. Most County Clerk's keep regular business hours, Monday through Friday from eight to 5 p.m., except for holidays. It doesn't hurt to call the County Clerk's office and make sure they're open when you plan to be there.

Both the bride and the groom need to go together to get the license. Each of you needs a picture ID and, at least in Bernalillo County, proof of your social security number. The fee is \$25, and it's always paid in cash. No blood tests are required in New Mexico. If you are under the age of 18, there are special requirements that you should call the clerk about.

It's a fairly quick process, and you walk out with your marriage license in hand. That license is good for a ceremony performed anywhere within New Mexico and has no expiration date.

Be sure to bring your license to your ceremony. Once it's been signed by the bride, the groom, the officiant, and two witnesses, you'll return the license to the County Clerk who issued it. You can mail it in or take it in, either one. The license will be recorded and the original document returned to you as a keepsake.