



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
Ernest J. Dronenburg, Jr.
San Diego Recorder/County Clerk
PO Box 121750, San Diego, CA 92112-1750
(619) 237-0502
www.sdarcc.com



DEPUTY MARRIAGE COMMISSIONER FOR A DAY

INFORMATION PACKET & APPLICATION BY MAIL

Couples with a valid marriage license can make their special day even more memorable by choosing a friend or relative to be deputized to perform their wedding ceremony at their chosen venue. The San Diego County Deputy Marriage Commissioner for a Day program is a unique and beautiful way for a couple to celebrate their wedding day. Applications for an appointment as a Deputy Marriage Commissioner for a Day should be submitted at least one month before the ceremony date.

Requirements for Deputy Marriage Commissioner Appointment:

1. Confirm with your couple what type of marriage license that they will/or have already purchased and where the ceremony is to take place.
2. The ceremony may take place anywhere in California.
3. If you wish to be appointed as a Deputy Marriage Commissioner to perform a civil wedding ceremony for a friend or family member, you may appear in person with the completed application form and provide valid government issued photo identification to be sworn in.
4. If you cannot appear in person to be sworn in, you must submit the required notarized application by mail at least 1 month in advance to receive the commission and instructions on time for the ceremony.
5. You must be at least 18 years of age. (California Family Code 400)
6. Cost is \$80.00 payable by check or money order.
7. The marriage license must be purchased by the couple **before** the ceremony can take place.

Procedure for By-Mail application:

1. Please review all pages. Complete all fields on page 2.
2. Go to a notary public to have your signature on the page 3 form titled Oath or Affirmation **notarized** and the Acknowledgement completed.
3. Mail pages 2 and 3 back to us with a check or money order made payable to:
San Diego County Clerk
PO BOX 121750
San Diego, CA 92112-1750
4. The application will be reviewed and a packet will be sent to you with instructions and wedding vows included. Upon receipt of the packet, please review to assure that the marriage will be performed legally and that the license is returned to the County Clerk within 10 days after the ceremony for recording in a timely manner.
5. If you have any further questions, please contact the San Diego County Clerk's Office at (619) 237-0502 for assistance.



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OATH OR AFFIRMATION

I _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the
 (Print or type name)
 Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties upon which I am about to enter.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

Note: Your signature MUST be notarized if applying by mail. Notarization is NOT required if applying in person.

A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not to the truthfulness, accuracy, or the validity of that document.

CERTIFICATE OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT

State of _____ County of _____

On _____ before me, _____
 (Insert name and title of the officer)

Personally appeared _____ who proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her/their authorized capacity(ies), and that by his/her/their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed, the instrument. I certify under PENALTY OF PERJURY under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing paragraph is true and correct.

Personally Known **OR** Produced Identification.
 Type of Identification produced _____

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

 Notary Signature



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INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CEREMONY AND COMPLETION OF THE MARRIAGE LICENSE

A Deputy Commissioner of Civil Marriages may solemnize one marriage under the direction of the Commissioner of Civil Marriages and under ALL of the following conditions and limitations. Please read these instructions before performing the ceremony.

- The marriage may only be solemnized on the dates specified on the face of the appointment and Oath of Office form. The parties to the marriage must present a marriage license to the deputy prior to the ceremony as stated in Family Code 421. Solemnizing a marriage without first being presented with a marriage license, willfully making a false return of any marriage license or pretend marriage license to the county clerk is guilty of a misdemeanor under Penal Code Section 360.
- DO NOT use whiteout, correction fluid, or make ANY changes or corrections if a mistake has been made. The license CANNOT be recorded if altered in any way. If there is a mistake, please notify the County Clerk when returning the license. A duplicate license must be issued for an additional fee of \$10.
- Using **DARK INK ONLY**, the deputy must fill in the following on the license: the date and place of the solemnization (ceremony), his/her signature and printed name, title, and address.
- Since this is a civil commission, there is no religious denomination, therefore enter one dash mark – in the field requesting religious denomination. The title should be printed in as **Deputy Marriage Commissioner**.
- The deputy MUST have at least one witness sign, but NO MORE than two, using dark ink on a “Non-Confidential Marriage License”. Witnesses are not required for a “Confidential Marriage License”.
- No particular form for the ceremony of marriage is required, but the parties **must** declare, in the presence of the deputy, that they take each other as spouses. The San Diego County Clerk will provide a sample of the civil marriage ceremony.
- When completed, the deputy MUST return the marriage license within 10 days of the ceremony for recording to the County Clerk. Failure to return a license for recording is a misdemeanor pursuant to Health and Safety Code 103785.
- The deputy shall not receive any money or anything of value for performing a marriage ceremony.

California Family Code 421

Before solemnizing a marriage, the person solemnizing the marriage shall require the presentation of the marriage license. If the person solemnizing the marriage has reason to doubt the correctness of the statement of facts in the marriage license, the person must be satisfied as to the correctness of the statement of facts before solemnizing the marriage. For this purpose, the person may administer oaths and examine the parties and witnesses in the same manner as the county clerk does before issuing the license.

California Health and Safety Code 103785

Every person who is required to fill out a certificate of birth, fetal death, death, or marriage license and register it with the local registrar, or deliver it, upon request, to any person charged with the duty of registering it, and who fails, neglects, or refuses to perform that duty in the manner required by this part is guilty of a misdemeanor.

California Penal Code 360

Every person authorized to solemnize any marriage, who solemnizes a marriage without first being presented with the marriage license, as required by Section 421 of the Family Code ; or who solemnizes a marriage pursuant to Part 4 (commencing with Section 500) of Division 3 of the Family Code without the authorization required by that part; or who willfully makes a false return of any marriage or pretended marriage to the recorder or clerk and every person who willfully makes a false record of any marriage return, is guilty of a misdemeanor.