

How to Apply for a Civil Union License

Requirements for entering into a Civil Union:

For two persons to establish a Civil Union in this State, it shall be necessary that they satisfy all of the following criteria:

- a. Not be a party to another civil union, domestic partnership or marriage in this State or recognized by this State*;
- b. Be of the same sex; and
- c. Be at least 18 years of age, except that applicants under the age of 18 may enter into a Civil Union with parental consent. Applicants under the age of 16 must obtain parental consent and have the consent approved in writing by any judge of the Superior Court, Chancery Division, Family part.

* Same sex couples who meet the above requirements and are registered as Domestic Partners may enter into a Civil Union with the same partner without terminating their Domestic Partnership prior to the Civil Union. If the Domestic Partnership was registered in New Jersey the Domestic Partnership is terminated upon the registration of the Civil Union. If the Domestic Partnership was registered in another state, the state in which the Domestic Partnership was registered will determine the impact on the Domestic Partnership. A couple that has previously entered into a Civil Union or a Same-Sex Marriage shall apply for a Reaffirmation of Civil Union.

Where to apply:

1. The civil union license application is to be made in the New Jersey municipality in which either party resides and the license is valid throughout the State of New Jersey.
2. If neither applicant is a New Jersey resident, submit the application in the municipality where the Civil Union ceremony will be performed, the license is **only** valid in the issuing municipality.

What you should bring with you when you apply for a Civil Union license:

1. If you are divorced, have had a previous civil union dissolved, domestic partnership terminated or have had a civil union annulled, please bring the decree(s) or the civil annulment documents.
2. If your former spouse/civil union or domestic partner is deceased, please bring the death certificate,
3. A copy of your birth certificate, driver's license, passport or state I.D.
4. Proof of your residency.
5. Your social security card or social security number.*
6. A witness, 18 years of age or older.
7. The \$28 application fee.

*Your social security number is required by law and will be kept confidential.
Any documents in a foreign language must be accompanied by a certified English translation.

After you apply:

There is a 72-hour waiting period before the license is issued. The waiting period begins when the application is filed with the Local Registrar. The Civil Union license application is valid for six months from the date accepted, unless the Registrar has given prior approval to extend the validity of the application to a maximum of one year. Only one Civil Union license may be granted from a Civil Union application. If the license expires before being used, a new application must be made and another \$28 fee remitted. The only exception to this requirement is in the case where a civil and religious ceremony are to be performed on the same day. In this case, the Local Registrar will photocopy the Civil Union application, marking one "A" and one "B", and issue the corresponding Civil Union licenses, marking them "A" and "B" as well. One copy will be used for the religious ceremony and the other for the civil ceremony.