

Marriage Ceremony Checklist¹

- Make sure parties have valid marriage license. [MCL 551.101](#).
 - Check expiration date to ensure license is not expired. [MCL 551.103a](#).
- Verify parties are residents of Michigan. [MCL 551.101](#).
 - If nonresidents, make sure license is issued by the county where the marriage is being performed. [MCL 551.101](#).
- Request proof of payment of \$10.00 fee. [MCL 600.8316](#).
- Make sure there are two witnesses present and they are 18 years of age or older. [MCL 551.103](#).
- Read wedding script. See [MCL 551.9](#).
- Make sure the parties recite the joining declaration. [MCL 551.9](#).
- Have the individuals being married and the two witnesses sign the marriage certificate. [MCL 551.104](#).
- Sign the marriage certificate. [MCL 551.104](#).
- Give duplicate marriage certificate to parties. [MCL 551.104](#).
- Record the ceremony in the book specifically used for that purpose. [MCL 551.104](#).
- Return the original marriage certificate to the issuing county clerk within 10 days. [MCL 551.104](#).

¹See the American Bar Association's [Formal Opinion 485](#), issued February 14, 2019, regarding performing same-sex marriages. Though not binding authority, the opinion may be considered persuasive. See also the Michigan Judicial Institute's [District Court Magistrate Manual](#), Chapter 8.

