

**Honorable Carol Swize**  
**KARNES COUNTY CLERK**  
**MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

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Requirements for Marriage License to be issued by Karnes County Clerk are as follows:

1. Both applicants must appear together and submit proof of age and identity by valid state driver's license, valid state ID Card, U.S. passport or visa, or any certificate of license issued by this state, another state, or the U.S. government, at the Clerks discretion. Proof of ID must include a photo, name and date of birth.  
-If you are applying for a Marriage License with an Absent party please have the absent parties ID notarized along with the absentee application please see forms under the Marriage License Tab.
2. Each applicant is also required to present an official document showing applicant's name and Social Security number. The name must be the same as it appears on the proof of identification. If you do not have proof of your Social Security number, call the County Clerk's office.
3. The cost of the marriage license is \$82.00. Couples who participate in Twogether in Texas premarital counseling through a certified Texas Health and Human Services Commission provider must present their certificate of course completion at the time they apply for the marriage license; the certificate must be used within one year of issuance. The cost of the marriage license to applicants who have completed Twogether in Texas premarital counseling is \$22.00. We accept cash, check and credit card. When using a credit card, we accept ONLY Visa, Mastercard or Discover. There will be \$3.00 service charge per hundred when using a credit card.
4. The legal age to purchase a Marriage License in the state of Texas is 18. The state does not require a blood test. If either applicant has been recently divorced from any party other than the co-applicant, the state requires a 30-day waiting period from the date of final decree showing name change if different from current identification.
5. The license is valid for 90 days from the date of purchase, during which time the ceremony must occur, or the license will expire. There is also a 72-hour waiting period from the time the license is purchased until the ceremony can be performed. Active duty military personnel are exempt from the 72-hour waiting period, with proof of active duty military status. Couples who have completed Twogether in Texas premarital counseling through a certified Texas Health and Human Services Commission provider are exempt from the 72-hour waiting period, upon presentation of their certificate of completion to the officiator (pastor, judge, etc.)
6. It is your responsibility to arrange the appointment with the official or minister who is going to conduct your ceremony.
7. Following the ceremony, the person officiating must complete the ceremony section of the license and sign it, and then return it to the county clerk for recording. The original license will be returned to you once it has been recorded
8. You may obtain certified copies of your marriage license at any time after it has been recorded. Certified copies cost \$5.00 + \$1.00 per page. Do not release your ORIGINAL marriage license to anyone without assurances that it will be returned to you. A certified copy of your marriage license should be used when the party or agency requesting it will not accept a plain copy.

The Karnes County Clerk's office is located in the Annex building behind the Courthouse in Karnes City, Texas. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., closed for lunch 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

If you have any questions not addressed here, please call the Karnes County Clerk's office at (830) 780-3938.