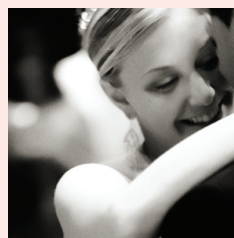
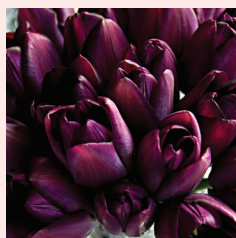


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Government Information

Marriage commissioners, marriage licenses, birth certificates and passport processing—it may sound rather daunting as you imagine long line-ups and scurrying around trying to find papers you never knew existed. In reality though, if you organize in advance and pay careful attention to the “Helpful Hints” in this section, processing government-related requirements for your marriage should be fairly straightforward. The contents of this section provide government requirements, services, and contact numbers you will find useful as you plan for your marriage. We’ve even included a “Weather & Road Report” section which may prove useful a few days before the wedding.

Marriage Officials

HELPFUL HINTS

When you decide to get married you need to arrange for an Officiant to perform your ceremony. In British Columbia you have the option of a Marriage Minister licensed by Vital Statistics or a Marriage Commissioner registered with the same body.

MARRIAGE MINISTER

In British Columbia there are a growing number of Marriage Ministers who specialize in performing wedding ceremonies at a variety of ceremony locations. Most Marriage Ministers will meet with you to plan your ceremony and tailor it to suit your individual needs while not requiring you to have any religious affiliation.

MARRIAGE COMMISSIONERS

Marriage Commissioners are individuals licensed by the Division of Vital Statistics to perform civil ceremonies.

If you choose to have a religious ceremony it’s a good idea to secure your Officiant as early as possible and to discuss with him the fee he normally receives for performing weddings. If you choose to have a commissioner perform your marriage you will be asked to pay a fee of \$75 plus tax. Additionally, marriage commissioners are entitled to charge kilometres to and from the ceremony.

For offices where you can obtain the name and telephone number of a marriage commissioner see “Marriage License Issuers” or: Division of Vital Statistics at 604 660-2937 or 800 663-8328 or visit Vital Statistics at www.vs.gov.bc.ca.

Marriage License Issuers

HELPFUL HINTS

To become legally married in British Columbia you must obtain a marriage license. To obtain a marriage license the bride or groom must apply in person (only one person need apply) to issuers appointed by the Director of Vital Statistics. Minors, aged 16 to 19 years, require written consent on the “Consent of Parent or Guardian to Marriage” form and, in the event a case is brought before a judge, discretion may be used to override this form. When a license has been obtained the marriage must take place within three months. The cost of a marriage license is \$100.

STEPS TO OBTAINING A MARRIAGE LICENSE

1. Locate a marriage license issuer. See the listings on page 95 for an issuer near you or call the Division of Vital Statistics at 604 660-2937.
2. One or two months prior to your wedding, you or your future spouse should apply for the license at your chosen marriage license office (remember: the marriage must take place within 90 days after you obtain the license).
3. You will need a valid piece of I.D., the full name of the bride and groom, place of birth, date of birth, residential address. BC residents require their Care Card number when they apply. Some agents may require a birth certificate for you and your spouse-to-be. You can obtain a birth certificate through any government agent who issues marriage licenses or by calling the Division of Vital Statistics at 604 660-2937. The cost of a birth certificate is \$27.