



March 2025

Congratulations and Best Wishes! Thank you for contacting the Town Clerk's office about your marriage license. We can issue you a license if you are planning a Block Island wedding and you live outside the State of Rhode Island. We also issue marriage licenses to residents of New Shoreham.

We will work with you via email to prepare your license. Once we have all the documentation you can call us to schedule an appointment (401-466-3200). We will meet with the marriage couple in person during regular business hours, Monday-Friday, 9-3 to see original documents, sign your worksheet and issue your marriage license.

Send your paperwork in advance: Please mail or e-mail good quality *copies* of your worksheet, birth certificates and proof of termination of previous marriage, if any. We will review your paperwork and contact you if we have questions. If any of your documents are not in English, ask us for translation guidelines. You must appear in person (*see above*) to obtain your license, so bring all original documents with you at that time. State law requires us to see your original documents before we issue the marriage license.

Worksheet: It is critical that you complete both pages of the worksheet. Include daytime telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, date of marriage, officiant information including name, address, phone number and denomination. If your officiant has a one-day certification from the Rhode Island Secretary of State, please note that we will need to see the certificate issued before certifying the marriage. You will sign the worksheet at the Town Hall when we issue your license.

Birth certificate: We need to see an original certified copy of birth certificates issued by a state, county or city. Look for a raised seal. We will return this document to you. We cannot accept a notarized copy, or hospital or baptismal certificate.

If this is not your first marriage: Provide proof of termination of most recent marriage/civil union. We can only accept original documents, either a **final divorce decree** certified by the Clerk of the Court or a certified death certificate. We will return this document to you.

Fees: The application fee is \$24.00. Per the State of Rhode Island, the first certified copy requested in person at the counter is \$22, but the same document requested through the mail is \$25. In either case, additional certified copies ordered at the same time cost \$18. We accept checks or *cash*. Your certified copy(s) will be mailed to you once your signed and dated marriage license is returned to our office.

Please be Advised...

To avoid disappointment please keep the following in mind while you plan your event:

- Balloons are banned on Block Island
- Sky lanterns are illegal in Rhode Island
- A special event license may be necessary if you plan to celebrate your event with more than 75 people. The special event license application must be received 30 days prior to the event. Please contact the Town Clerk's Office at (401) 466-3200 for details.
- Outdoor music, at monitored, reasonable levels, is allowed until 9:00 p.m. only
- Open containers of alcoholic beverages are prohibited in public
- On public beaches, *closed* as well as open containers of alcohol are prohibited

Town Hall Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 - 3:00.

Closed on federal holidays, and the second Monday in August, a Rhode Island holiday.

Please call to schedule an appointment: 401-466-3200

New Shoreham Town Clerk, PO Box 220, Block Island RI 02807; lpayne@newshorehamri.gov