

Clerks Corner February 2017 Tying the Knot in MA?

Engaged? Getting married in Massachusetts? Congratulations! Now that you and your mate have found each other and are ready to take the next step, here is what you need to do for the State of Massachusetts. Any couple getting married in Massachusetts needs to have a MA marriage license within 60 days of the wedding date but no sooner than 3 days prior. The couple can file for this license at any city or town in Massachusetts regardless of where they are getting married, where they live or where they were born. The key here is to select a location that the couple will remember because the marriage certificate will always remain at that location for eternity. The fee for a marriage license varies from \$15-\$50 depending on the municipality. To complete the forms for a marriage license, the couple will need to know their basic information including social security numbers as well as the proper spelling of their parents' full names. They should also have thought about whether there will be any name changing after the ceremony as that is on the forms. At least three days after the forms are filed at the Clerk's office; the marriage license will be ready to pick up. Whoever retrieves the license should plan to take some time to read over the license carefully. Correcting any errors is more easily done prior to the ceremony than after.

By this point the couple has most likely selected the officiant for their ceremony. A member of the clergy or Justice of the Peace both from Massachusetts will know how to properly complete the license and return it to the Clerk. However if the officiant is from a different state or a layperson with a one-time designation they need to receive permission from the Secretary of the Commonwealth or the Governor's Office. For these officiants, please be sure to get proper instructions from the Clerk on what needs to be completed so that there is no delay in getting a certified copy of your marriage license after the ceremony. And then enjoy your special day and all the wonderful times to come.

Locally, the Annual Town Meeting for the Town of Wenham is scheduled for Saturday April 1st at 1pm preceded by the free Town Luncheon sponsored by the Wenham Village Improvement Society at noon both at The Buker School. The Annual Town Election is scheduled for Thursday April 6th from 7am to 8pm at the Town Hall. Please be sure to reserve time to attend the Meeting and Election so you can participate in these local events that affect our daily lives here in Wenham.

Dianne Kaplan Bucco was elected the Wenham Town Clerk April 11, 2014 and is up for re-election on April 6, 2017. For more information on the clerk's office, please go to www.wenhamma.gov or follow the Wenham Town Clerk on Facebook.