

SERVICES BY LUBBOCK MOBILE NOTARY → [www.LubbockNotary.com](http://www.LubbockNotary.com)

→ Call / Text 806-392-4450 → [notary@usa.com](mailto:notary@usa.com)

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## (1) Apostilles

Apostilles certify the authenticity of a signature, the capacity in which the person signing the document has acted and where appropriate, the identity of the seal or stamp which the document bears. An apostille provides legitimacy of documents that are only accepted in countries that are part of the Hague Legalization Convention (see below).

The U.S. Department of State states that the main documents that require apostilles include affidavits, agreements, articles of incorporation, company bylaws, assignment deeds, diplomas, income verification, powers of attorney, transcripts, trademarks, warrants, extraditions, adoption, certificates of good standing, and more.

An apostille is not the same as a notary. Many documents can require both a notary and apostille stamp, they must be considered different. A notary verify's the signer's ID and the witness the signer of a document. An apostille is issued by the US Department of State or Secretary of State and authenticates the document from any US state and District of Columbia.

An apostille is the title given to the authentication certificate issued under the Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalization for Foreign Public Documents ("Hague Legalization Convention"). Documents issued in one country to be used in or presented to another country must be "authenticated" or "legalized" before the other country will recognize those documents and give the documents the legal import given in the jurisdiction of origination. The Hague Legalization Convention simplifies the procedures for documents presented to countries adopting the convention. Prior to the Hague Convention and for countries which are not members of the Convention, the chain authentication procedure was or is used. This involves multiple authentications by different authorities in the chain of issuance. The United States is a party to the Hague Legalization Convention. With the ratification of the Hague Legalization Convention by Mexico, the Texas Secretary of State has seen a dramatic rise in the requests for issuance of apostilles. Vie a complete list of countries on the website of the [Hague Conference](#) on Private International Law.

Lubbock Mobile Notary provides Apostille Services **by appointment only**. These documents are complex and more preparation is needed to avoid expensive mistakes and delays. We provide a highly needed Apostille document service in the Lubbock and surrounding areas.

What can and cannot be apostilled can be found [here](#). **Due to dealing with different countries and their languages, we advise starting this process 30 days before you need it.**

### TYPES OF APOSTILLES WE PROVIDE

**Medical Records** - there is an extra step for countries not part of the Treaty and Hague Convention because they will require an Embassy or Consulate Legalization. A foreign country may require your medical records for various reasons. For example, if you plan a marriage in their country, to obtain a work visa, or citizenship. Also, international adoption agencies may require your medical records before adoption a youth outside of the USA. **Why?** Because medical records typically contain your blood type, screenings for major diseases such as those that are highly contagious or communicable.

**To Obtain a Medical Records Apostille:** first, [contact that country's consulate](#) to be sure an Apostille is required. If it is, please talk to your doctor to obtain your records. The records must be notarized before anything. If they do not have a notary on-site, Lubbock Mobile Notary can meet with your doctor to identify you and also witness the signing. Then your medical records can be authenticated in order to obtain the Apostille certificate.

**To Obtain a Marriage or Divorce Apostille:** there are many reasons why an apostille may be required such as child custody, a divorce filed overseas, dual citizenship application, inheritance, death of a spouse, property ownership, or similar. If your document is lost, old, or even partially damaged, you will need to allow time to acquire a new replacement copy before it can be attached to an apostille certificate. You will need to provide a **certified copy** that is issued by the court and that has a raised or colored seal. It also must have a signature of the Clerk of Court where it was originally issued. Decrees can only be authenticated where they originated. If you are looking for a **Single Status Apostille** you are required to obtain a notarized declaration indicating that you are single by way of divorce, widowhood, or have never been married. Many times this information includes passport information if the county clerk requires it.

Therefore, first, [contact that country's consulate](#) to see if there is an age limit on how old the apostille and marriage certificate or divorce decree can be. Apostilles never expire by the country that requests the apostille may have time limitations. When

you contact us to order your apostille, we will need to know WHERE the document originated and the COUNTRY that is requesting it.

**To Obtain an Apostille for College or University Transcripts:** if you wish to study abroad, you will need to prove your current education. This is the most requested document by other countries although awards and group participation or club memberships are also apostilled quite often. This type of apostille will certify your current educational credentials for the requesting country. First, [contact that country's consulate](#) to ask about their timelines. Then, contact your school's registrar to obtain a copy of your diploma, certificate, or transcripts. That item **must** be notarized by the school. Then it's time to contact Lubbock Notary so we can apostille them for you. After that, you can send them to the receiving country.

**To Obtain Birth Certificate Apostille:** if you wish to obtain an apostille for a birth certificate, first [contact that country's consulate](#) to ask about their timelines. Usually, a foreign country will request this in various banking, real estate, marriage, adoption, child custody, or inheritance situations. Therefore, the second step is to contact your vital records department or state registrar to obtain the actual certificate of birth that was issued if you don't have it because we require a hard copy that was certified by the original issuing agency or department. **IMPORTANT** -- you will need the date that the document was originally issued because the validity of the vital record is critical and it cannot be issued more than 5 years before the apostille is requested. If the birth occurred more than 5 years from today, you will have to get a certified copy from the original issuer or vital records office in the state where the death occurred. For a more efficient and often least expensive method, [GO HERE](#).

**To Obtain Death Certificate Apostille:** if you wish to obtain an apostille for a death certificate, we'd be happy to assist with this unfortunate and critical process. First, [contact that country's consulate](#) to ask about their timelines. Usually, a foreign country will request this in various employment, college education, marriage, or child adoption situations. Therefore, the second step is to contact your vital records department or state registrar to obtain the actual certificate of birth that was issued if you don't have it because we require a hard copy from the original issuing agency or department. **IMPORTANT** -- you will need the date that the document was originally issued because the validity of the vital record is critical and it cannot be issued more than 5 years before the apostille is requested. If the death occurred more than 5 years from today, you will have to get a certified copy from the original issuer or vital records office in the state where the death occurred. For a more efficient and often least expensive method, [GO HERE](#).

**Mexico Apostilles:** Certain times Mexican authorities may require residency documents, college transcripts, banking or investment transactions, marriage, inheritance, adoption, or other circumstances. Mexico is one of the 117 countries in the Hague Convention Treaty of 1961 and this makes it easier to acquire an apostille.

  
The State of Texas  
Secretary of State

Requested for use in MEXICO  
Not for use within the United States of America  
This Apostille only certifies the signature, the capacity of the signer and the seal or stamp it bears. It does not certify the content of the document for which it was issued.  
Certificate Validation available at [www.sos.state.tx.us](http://www.sos.state.tx.us)

APOSTILLE (Convention de La Haye de 5 Octobre 1961)	
1. Country	United States of America
This public document	
2. has been signed by	Stephanie L. Tristram
3. acting in the capacity of	Deputy County Clerk
4. and bears the seal/stamp of	Harris County, State of Texas
<b>CERTIFIED</b>	
5. at Austin, Texas	6. on January 9, 2014
7. by the Secretary of State of Texas	
8. Certificate No. 10060010	
9. Seal	10. Signature:
	 Nandita Berry Secretary of State
GFiner	



## (2) Auto Title, Transfer, Photography, & Tow Options

- More people today are buying vehicles remotely. We provide photography services for the buyers who are unable to come out and inspect the vehicle themselves. We not only photograph the full vehicle, motorcycle, boat, or airplane, but we also provide video clips of damage, the running motor, and more. Let's us be your eyes in the field.
- Also, if you wish to buy, sell, inherit or receive a vehicle as a gift, you will have to transfer the title. You will need [Texas Form VTR-346](#). You will likely need the Certificate of Title, Application for Texas Title and / or Registration, Release of Lien, Power of Attorney, Proof of Insurance, Vehicle Inspection Report (VIR), and a Bill of Sale. [These forms can be found here](#). After you have collected and completed all requirements, you will take them to your local DMV.
- In addition, we also help deter fraud and help dealerships protect their bottom line and prevent fraud. We are impartial as we properly and officially verify the signer and / or co-signer. This helps screen out improper or illegal buyers by ensuring that signatures are freely and willingly obtained, not under force or duress and is of sound mind.
- **OH, OH... it's TOWED!** We can help you get your automobile out of the tow yard or impound lot. We can notarize your VSF document whether it's during the day, evening, weekend, or holiday. The [\\*Texas VSF Removal of Motor Vehicle\\*](#) form will be given to you by the tow yard or impound lot and that is the form we notarize for you before they will release your vehicle. The VSF form is also called a "removal and / or inspection of a motor vehicle" form. Once it is signed by you and notarized by us, you give it to the lot attendant so you can get your vehicle.

You MUST have a valid driver's license in order to use our services for this option.

### How to complete the VSF form:

- (1) You must be the owner or an immediate family member of the owner. If you are a parent, spouse, brother, sister, or child of the owner, this VSF form can be used as the Affidavit of Right of Possession form.
- (2) You may also be an authorized representative of an insurance agency who is authorized by law to conduct business in the State of Texas.
- (3) You must indicate your reason for the vehicle's release. Are you going to remove it or inspect it?
- (4) You must have the VIN #, make and model of the vehicle and information about who is removing or inspecting it. You will likely also need the year, license plate number, and the TDLR number (which you get from the tow or impound lot attendant).
- (5) You will then sign so we can notarize it. **DO NOT SIGN UNTIL THE NOTARY ARRIVES. YOU MUST SIGN IN FRONT OF THE NOTARY.**

Contact us today and let's get your vehicle out of jail!



### **(3) Broker's Price Opinion Photography**

We are available to provide **Occupancy Verifications, Posting Notices, Lockbox Removal / Installation, REO / BPO / Real Estate Photography**, private and commercial as well as insurance **Inspections**, and more. We have current HUD keys for the State of Texas.

Banks, lenders, brokers, real estate investors, and others often may need help determining the value of a property. Instead of paying for a formal independent appraisal, they order our broker's price opinion (**BPO) PHOTOGRAPHY**.

#### **Our BPO photography helps individuals and companies determine...**

- the property's appearance and condition;
- the size of the property, including square footage, number of bedrooms and bathrooms, and lot size;
- the age of home; and
- upgrades or unique features that may affect the value of the home such as a fireplace, garage, or pool.

#### **The most common reasons individuals and companies order our Broker Price Opinion Photography:**

- Pre-Foreclosure
- Short Sale
- Home Equity Loan
- Home Equity Line of Credit – HELOC
- Distressed loans
  - Ongoing diligence/disposition
  - REO
  - Short Sale
  - Loan Modifications
  - Pre-Foreclosure
- Valuation of portfolio
- Mark to market
- Private Mortgage Insurance – PMI removal
- Secondary markets
  - Establish portfolio price – seller
  - Due Diligence – buyer
- Legal
  - Divorce
  - Estate settlement
  - Lawsuits
  - Prenuptials
- Loan origination

**However, our BPO photography is not the same as a BPO analysis, appraisal, or CMA.**

#### **(4) Child Custody / Temporary Guardianship**

In the State of Texas, many non-parents are caring for someone else's children.

If this is your situation, here are some very important things **YOU NEED TO KNOW**.

- [Authorization Form](#)
- [Child Power of Attorney / Guardianship Form](#)
- [Guardianship Rules / Laws](#)
- [Many forms of all kinds](#)

**NOTE:** Documents must be in English and Signer must be able to fully communicate in English.

#### **(5) Courier or Delivery Service**

You are likely way too busy with work or school to run errands. That's why we offer pick up and / or delivery service for your most important items when you need it done NOW.

We are not authorized to grocery shop, pick up prescriptions, or pay for anything on your behalf.

We are authorized to pick up and / or deliver important items such as medical specimens, court documents, tax or financial documents, medical records, print orders, manufactured parts, and similar for you.



## (6) DNA ~ Drug Tests

Our notaries can act as a legal witness to help guarantee the legitimacy of any swab and related consent documents. This can be especially important when it comes to certain kinds of DNA and intoxicant tests. The presence of a notary will ensure the legitimacy of results for hair testing, genetic reconstruction testing, and more. Our owner, [Dr. Mozelle Martin](#), used to manage a COVID testing site in Arizona. A large part of her job was to collect swabs and ship them via FedEx.

Let her experience help you!



## (7) Private Faxing / Printing Service

Although faxing is not as popular as it used to be, many companies still require it. You could use an online service. However, many of the free services are scammers and they keep your personal information that they extract out of your documents. **That is not a safe option for most.** If you need to fax documents but don't have access to a fax, why not trust a local Lubbock company that is licensed, bonded, insured, and background checked? We never keep your personal information and we never keep a copy of anything you send.

### **We offer two options:**

- (1) We can pick up what you want faxes and bring them back to you with an official proof of sending.
- (2) You can email us the documents and we will fax them to you and provide proof of sending via return email.

Although many have their own printers, sometimes they break, run out of ink at the last minute, or it's too private to print at home. You could go to an office or UPS store but will likely pay more. Plus, many employees have access to your information and not all employees are background screened. If you need to print documents but don't have access to a printer or don't feel safe printing your documents from home, why not trust a local Lubbock company that is licensed, bonded, insured, and background checked? We never keep a copy of anything you print.

**We offer print & delivery service OR we can mail the documents to you or your recipient directly.**



## **(8) Healthcare Directives**

**If someone you love can't make responsible decisions, who will?**

**If YOU can't make responsible healthcare decisions, who do you trust to do it for you?**

Now is a great time to prepare your healthcare directive while you are able to make the necessary decisions. Doing so will help relieve the stress that can happen when faced with difficult situations. Preparing this form is a loving way to relieve your family of struggling with that decision.

Patients in hospitals and other forms of care are challenged with minor conditions to terminal illnesses and many are uncomfortable and in pain. We wish we could assist with the medical care but we can't. However, we can help provide an oftentimes enormous amount of relief to them and you by notarizing their documents. Whether they suffered a stroke, do not have full mobility of their hands, or can't speech as well as they used to, we are honored to help by using alternative methods of communication such as eye or hand signals, sound responses, hand squeezing, or other nonverbal options. However, we cannot work with patients who may be cognitively or memory impaired or who are comatose, asleep, or not fully alert.

Many of these facilities have an on-staff notary. However, those who don't, we will go to the facility to serve your notary needs.

A healthcare directive is often part of a living will that gives specific details about what you want medical personnel to do in emergency situations when you could die. You can state if you want 'comfort only' or 'life support', or other measures. In other words, your Advanced Healthcare Directive is a legal document that allows you to provide specific details about your care when you are no longer able to make those decisions for yourself. Think carefully about who you want to designate... who you trust the most to make those decisions for you.

After you do so, keep the original in a file and give copies of it to those you trust and designate. Keeping a copy with your medical doctor is also important. Review the document every year especially if you move, change doctors, or experience any other specific change in your life.

**Many of our wonderful customers are currently in nursing facilities, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, retirement homes, and the like.**

We cannot create documents for you or make legal recommendations. However, the most common signings are Healthcare Directives, DNR Orders, financial POA, and Medical Power of Attorney. However, there are many more circumstances that may require notarization.

**NOTE:** Documents must be in English and Signer must be able to fully communicate in English.



## **(9) I-9 Verification**

We can assist local employers and employees with I-9 Employment Eligibility and Identification Verification. The I-9 form verifies the identity and employment eligibility for employees hired by U.S. employers. We provide I-9 Services to assist employers with this verification for both local and remote hires. We can work on-site or our mobile service can visit employees directly.

Fill out [THIS FORM](#) and then submit it via email or call us to schedule an appointment.

## **(10) Inspections \* Field Services \* Property Preservation**

We are available to provide **Occupancy Verifications, Posting Notices, Lockbox Removal / Installation, REO / BPO / Real Estate Photography**, private and commercial as well as insurance **Inspections**, and more. We have current HUD keys for the State of Texas.

Full Mortgage Field Services Provided – Property Inspections – Occupancy Verification – Letter Delivery – Interior Inspections – Insurance Loss Draft – Merchant Site Inspections, Full Property Preservation Services – Grass Cuts/Lawn Maint. – Debris Removal – Lock Changes – Initial Secure – Winterization – REO – Snow Removal, Evictions – Cash For Keys, Insurance Inspections, Commercial Property Inspections, Auto Inspections

Don't see what you are looking for? **Just ask!**

Additionally, if your property needs repair, carpet removed, yard maintained, and more, we can handle many of your **Property Preservation** needs.

## **(11) Paternity Testing**

Our notaries can act as a legal witness to help guarantee the legitimacy of any swab and related consent documents. This can be especially important when it comes to paternity tests. The presence of a notary will ensure the legitimacy of results. Our owner, [Dr. Mozelle Martin](#), used to manage a COVID testing site in Arizona. A large part of her job was to collect swabs and ship them via FedEx. Let her experience help you!





## **(12) Power of Attorney (POA)**

Texas law requires two witnesses who are not named in the document for a will.

Texas Power of Attorney (POA) forms do not need witnesses.

In each situation, all signatures (the principal and witnesses) must occur in person in front of a notary and must have a photo ID.

### **Do you need a Power of Attorney?**

In this article by [Kretzer Law](#), we've done the research to help you understand the different types of POA, so you can decide which makes sense for your situation. So, keep reading to learn all about the POA process in the State of Texas!

[Other forms available here.](#)

### **What Is Power of Attorney?**

A power of attorney (or a "POA" for short) is a legal document that gives one person, usually called the "agent," the legal authority to make certain types of decisions for another person, usually called the "principal." Some people use a power of attorney to allow an agent to manage real estate, handle financial affairs, or run a business on their behalf for a period of time, often during a disability or near the end of life. Simply put, a POA is a contract between two persons but is not a court order. A court order will always prevail over a private POA in the event of a conflict.

### **Who Needs a POA?**

The answer depends on the principal's condition and the type of actions that the principal would like to assign the agent to take on their behalf. Of course, the principal's conditions can vary. Still, in summary, a POA exists so that someone else can take action for the principal when the principal cannot be physically or cognitively present. For example, one reason to grant a POA is if you want to transact business in another state but cannot attend a certain meeting or event. This has been particularly applicable during COVID-19, when interstate travel was often impractical or at times impossible.

**General powers of attorney** are used to allow someone to act for you in a wide variety of matters, such as entering into contracts, buying and selling property, drawing money from bank accounts, paying taxes and other bills, consolidating debts, dealing with government welfare agencies, and taking other actions on behalf of the principal. Note, should the principal become incapacitated, this POA will expire. That's why general POAs are **not** recommended to be used for end-of-life planning or medical directives.

Another type of POA, the "**statutory power of attorney**" or "**durable power of attorney**," is for when the principal becomes incapacitated or unable to make decisions. This type of POA gives an agent permission to access bank accounts, sell a property and make other important decisions on behalf of the principal.

### **How Long Does a POA Last?**

POA laws in Texas generally follow the Restatement of the Law on agency, as follows:

- A general power of attorney in Texas terminates when the principal becomes incapacitated or can no longer make decisions for himself or herself, which status is generally determined by a court of law. (See Restatement of the Law – Agency, 3d § 3.08).
- Other circumstances under which a general power of attorney under Texas law could terminate include:
- After a time period specified in the POA (Restatement of the Law – Agency, 3d § 3.09);

- Once a specified task has been accomplished (Restatement of the Law – Agency, 3d § 3.09);
- When the principal dies (Restatement of the Law – Agency, 3d § 3.07); or
- When the power of attorney is revoked by the principal (Restatement of the Law – Agency, 3d § 3.10).

**A durable power of attorney ends when the principal passes away.**

**How to Obtain a POA Form:**

Download, complete, and print out the [Texas Durable Power of Attorney form](#).

Finally, after the form is filled out (but NOT signed), it's time to have the document witnessed in front of a Notary Public to render the document official.

**All signatures must occur in front of the notary.**

Signing **requires** two witnesses - one can be the agent, a relative, doctor, or beneficiary of the principle and the other should be a neutral third party.

It is never a bad idea to start the Power of Attorney process early so that if you need to or want to invoke a POA for a limited duration, you have one prepared and ready to go. Think about who you might trust to serve as your agent, and speak with them when drafting your POA. Then, if you are not ready to sign it just yet, you could even set it aside in a safe or safety deposit box to access when and if the need arises.

**Many of our wonderful customers are currently in nursing facilities, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, retirement homes, and the like.**

We cannot create documents for you or make legal recommendations. However, the most common signings are Healthcare Directives, DNR Orders, financial POA, and Medical Power of Attorney. However, there are many more circumstances that may require notarization.

**NOTE:** Documents must be in English and Signer must be able to fully communicate in English.



### **(13) Secret Shopper & Undercover Employee**

Since 1990, when she was a single mother of two kids, Dr. Martin has been conducting secret shopper tasks at various restaurants, bars, and retail businesses. After being a licensed Private Investigator for 17 years in several states, she has also been hired by corporations to work as an employee to help uncover dishonesty in the workplace. See her extensive forensic background [here](#). Contact her for a quote so she can help you maintain the integrity of your business and reputation. She would love to help you protect your bottom line.

### **(14) Test Proctoring**

Proctoring services are for students and/or professionals who are enrolled in an online course and who will need to submit to an exam. One main requirement is that an approved Proctor has been background checked and commissioned by the State of Texas. That's why notary publics are the perfect proctors. Notaries are already certified and background checked by the state.

Online education is expanding even more and this allows students and professionals to take classes and study online. That also means that test taking is still required and having a local proctor to oversee the integrity of the test is essential.

Additionally, many students and professionals struggle with test anxiety and having a Test Proctor with professional experience as a teacher or mental health professional can help prevent an anxiety-based and unfair test score outcome.

Some educational facilities allow a student to test within their home environment while others require the test be taken at any location outside the residence. Typically the only requirement other than a proctor is an internet connection. The Test Proctor would then meet the student at the testing location.

#### **How it works:**

1. The student acquires all of the testing instructions, testing website, log on information, items allowed (calculator, notes, etc.) from their educational facility.
2. The student contacts us to set up an appointment time and location per the educational institution's requirements.
3. When the student arrives for his appointment, he presents his government-issued and valid photo ID.
4. The student will then begin testing.
5. Upon completion of the test or examination, we will certify the exam using the Proctor Verification form supplied by your educational provider.

#### **Students**

If you know you will need a proctor for an exam, please schedule 1-2 weeks before your exam is due to be sure we can meet your needs.

- Every educational institution is unique and have their own process in place so be sure to check with them on their "proctor requirements".
- If it is a pen and paper exam or test, ask your Campus Testing department to email a copy of your test to us (your proctor) within 3 weeks of your exam due date. They should email you a confirmation directly.
- Then contact us to be sure we have received it. If we did not receive it, please contact Campus Testing again so it can be resent.
- Bring a government-issued, non-expired photo ID with you so your proctor can verify your identity. **This is required.**

**Note:** cell phones, laptops, tablets and/or PDAs are not allowed during your exam.

**MEETING / TESTING OPTIONS** include a library, park, church, cafe, or coffee shop.

## **(15) Wedding ceremonies are only \$77 within 15 miles of downtown Lubbock**

We've been performing weddings since 2009 in Arizona. However, due to our busy schedule, we no longer perform elaborate or fancy weddings.

**HOWEVER**, if you want a small service similar to the Justice of the Peace) at **YOUR** location -- **OR** -- you just need your marriage license signed, we only charge \$ 77. Contact us for areas outside of our standard 15 mile radius.

### **Marriage License Requirements- State of Texas**

We can legally marry any couple who has a valid marriage license obtained by any county clerk in the State of Texas or other state that accepts out-of-state marriages. We require you have your valid marriage license at the time of the ceremony so Dr. Martin can sign and you or she can return it to your county clerk's office to make it "official".

Marriage licenses must be obtained Monday-Friday at your county clerk office, in person, with the fee amount in **CASH ONLY**. County Clerk offices are closed on all national Holidays so be sure to check with [your local county clerk's office](#) for business hours.

### **Military Obtaining their License**

If your partner is a member of the military, and cannot be present at the county clerk to obtain the license, Texas allows the military applicant to turn in a notarized absentee affidavit. Affidavits can be notarized on base. This affidavit can then be returned to the county clerk without the person being present, to obtain the license. The 72-hour waiting period is waived automatically for all military couples.

### **Things You'll Need**

- Divorce decree, annulment paper or death certificate, if applicable
- Marriage license application
- Photo identification
- Certified copy of your birth certificate
- Must know your Social Security number (Some counties may require the physical social security card)
- Must have a current address

### **Steps in Applying for your license**

1. Apply for the marriage license in person at a county clerk's office.
2. Present proof of age and identity. A driver's license, state-issued birth certificate or passport are acceptable forms of identification for this purpose. Applicants may also be asked to provide social security numbers.
3. Complete the application and sign it in front of the county clerk. If this is not possible, any adult or the other applicant may apply on behalf of the absent applicant. Contact the local county clerk for additional requirements.
4. Pay the license fee and head to the altar. There must be at least 72 hours between the date and time of issuance of a license and the time the ceremony occurs, unless one applicant is on active duty in the armed forces or a waiver is granted. A marriage license is valid for 90 days.

### **Tips & Warnings**

- When [applying](#) for a marriage license, each applicant must indicate that he or she has not been divorced within the last 30 days (unless the applicants were divorced from each other.)
- The marriage ceremony does not have to occur in Texas. The ceremony may occur in another state, another country or in international waters. However, the applicants should realize that if questions arise, the validity of the marriage may be subject to the jurisdiction of the area where the marriage occurred. Research the laws and seek independent legal advice before the ceremony, if necessary.
- Blood tests are not required in Texas.

- Witnesses are not required in Texas

***Requirements may vary, as each county in Texas could have their own rules so check with your local county clerk's office.***

**ID Requirement in Texas**

You will need one valid form of identification such as drivers license, a certified copy of your birth certificate, U. S. passport, military ID card, and your social security number.

**Residency Requirement:**

Neither one of you have to be a resident of Texas. Texas is a great locale for a destination wedding!

**Previous Marriage:**

If divorced within 30 days, Texas requires that you show a certified copy of your [divorce decree](#), stating the 30 day waiting period is waived.

**Waiting Period in Texas:**

The 72 hours (3 days) waiting period in Texas can be waived for active duty military personnel.

**Fees and Blood Tests:**

Fees for a marriage license vary from \$72 – \$88 and **must be paid in cash**, so don't leave home without it!

The fees may vary from Texas county to county.

Blood tests or medical examinations are **not** required in Texas.



## **(16) Typed & Handwritten Wills**

Handwritten wills are completely legal and, for many reasons, stronger than typed wills. **Why?** Because the entire thing is written by you (the testator), in your own handwriting. After you pass, if someone contests it or claims you did not write it, a forensic handwriting expert or document examiner can prove you did! The more writing of yours the handwriting examiner has, the better because it is easier to prove. Whereas, on a typed will, it's pretty limited to the amount of writing on the document. Usually, you sign and date, but that's all. It's much more difficult to prove a forgery with such small amounts of handwriting. A lot of people get obsessed with their "messy writing". Neatness does not matter. What does matter for this purpose, is that every word is handwritten by you and you alone, and that anyone can read every single one of those words. Therefore, if you are curious about how to handwrite your will, please see [THIS PAGE](#).

Whether you handwrite or type your will, you can get it notarized. After you do so, we recommend you keep the original in a file and give copies of it to those you trust and designate. Also be sure to give a copy to your witnesses.

To be valid in Texas, please see [these requirements](#) for your will.

**Many of our wonderful customers are currently in nursing facilities, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, retirement homes, and the like.**

**NOTE:** Documents must be in English and Signer must be able to fully communicate in English.

