



## Massachusetts General Law, CH 207, Section 20 Marriage Waiver

### Instructions for Couples Filing in Boston

The City Registrar must be contacted prior to the application and waiver – this can only be used for the one couple the Registrar is contacted about- a request has to be made for each couple.

*Couples must be 18 or over and Free to Marry. Please note: if ever married anywhere in the world - any divorce must be final according to their divorce decree. Please see our website for more information [www.boston.gov/marriage](http://www.boston.gov/marriage)*

*The party who is medically unable to appear in person must still be able to make decisions.*

Then the Registrar emails a form to the Hospital or Facility for the Doctor or Physician's Assistant/PA to complete and sign the Marriage Waiver for the party who is seriously ill and cannot appear in person to apply for their Marriage Intention.

The party coming to City Hall to apply for the Marriage Intention and License then brings the completed form signed by the Doctor to the City Registry.

In addition, the party needs to know/bring information to be able to complete the Marriage Intention for both parties (when possible we will email the fiancé a link to fill out a Pre-Intention that will need to still be reviewed and signed in person) :

- Photo Identification (Driver's License, State ID, Passport) for the party filling out the Intention and a photo copy of the ID for the party that cannot appear.
- Name (and know what surname will be used after marriage)
- Address
- Date of Birth
- Social Security Numbers (you do not need to show the card)
- Occupation
- Is this the First, Second.... Marriage and the Status of the last Marriage (widowed, divorced...)
- Birth place – City/Town, State, Country (where the birth was not where the family resided)
- Parents Names including Mother's Maiden Name. And you need to know- if when each of the parties were born, were their parents married or not married at the time of their birth?)

The Fee for applying for Marriage Intentions is \$50 Cash, Money Order, Credit Card (no Am Express) or Debit.

Once the parties have the Marriage Intention filed and have received their Marriage License, they then have a member of the Clergy or a Justice of the Peace in Massachusetts perform the marriage, that Solemnizer then completes and returns the Marriage License to the City of Boston Registry. Couples need to have a valid marriage license in hand and be married by a person eligible to perform weddings in the State of Massachusetts – they are required to be registered with the MA Secretary of State's Office.

The Registry Division is in Boston City Hall Room 213 and is open weekday 9am until 4pm. We are closed on Legal Holidays. 617-635-4175 If you have any questions please email: [Registry@boston.gov](mailto:Registry@boston.gov)