

Seventy-two Hour Waiver Information

The Law, per Section 2.204 of the Texas Family code, requires that a marriage ceremony may not take place during the 72-hour period immediately following the issuance of the marriage license unless:

- (a) An applicant is a member of the armed forces of the United States and on active duty;
- (b) An applicant is not a member of the armed forces of the United States but performs work for the United States Department of Defense as a department employee or under a contract with the department;
- (c) Completes a premarital education course described by Section 2.013, and who provides to the county clerk a premarital education course completion certificate (Twogether in Texas) indicating completion of the premarital education course not more than one year before the date the marriage license application is filed with the clerk;
- (d) An applicant obtains a written waiver;

An applicant may request a judge of a court with jurisdiction in family law cases, a justice of the Supreme Court, a judge of the court of criminal appeals, a county judge, or a judge of a court of appeals for a written waiver permitting the marriage ceremony to take place during the 72-hour period immediately following the issuance of the marriage license. The Judge shall execute the waiver if the judge finds that there is good cause for the marriage to take place during the 72-hour period. The judge shall sign the waiver.

The County Clerk's Office provides the form, "Order Permitting Marriage During 72 Hour Waiting Period."

To obtain a written waiver, YOU MUST do the following:

1. Obtain an "Order Permitting Marriage During 72 Hour Waiting Period" from the County Clerk's Office
2. Take the order to the District Clerk's Office on the 3rd floor of the Victoria County Courthouse, located at 115 N. Bridge St., Victoria, TX 77901. You will be directed to a District Judge.
3. Obtain a marriage license from the County Clerk's Office. Present the signed "Order Permitting Marriage During the 72 Hour Waiting Period" to the Deputy County Clerk who is issuing your license. The deputy will note the 72 hour waiver on your marriage license, which will serve to inform the person performing the ceremony.

If you have any questions, please call the County Clerk's Office at 361-575-1478.