COUNTY OF BERRIEN
CLERK *of the* CIRCUIT COURT – VITAL RECORDS DIVISION
STACY LOAR-PORTER
County Clerk

Administration Center
701 Main St, St. Joseph, MI 49085
South County Building
1205 N Front St, Niles, MI 49120

(Saint Joseph) **Tel:** 269-983-7111, ext. 8233
(Niles) **Tel:** 269-983-7111, ext. 6288
Fax: 269-982-8667

TO: FUTURE MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICANTS:

The following is a summary of the marriage laws of Michigan for both residents and non-residents:

1. **Michigan residents must apply in the county of residence of one of the applicants. Non-residents must be married in the county where they make application.**

2. Both applicants must be 18 years of age or older. There are no exceptions per signed legislation by the Governor on October 9, 2023. Applicants under 18 years of age should call the Probate Court for more detailed information.

3. Valid identification and social security number are required for both persons making application. **Valid identification shall consist of a current driver's license or state I.D.** Valid I.D. **MUST** show current address.

4. On January 1, 2001, Michigan's Premarital law (Public Act 209 of 2000) went into effect. This law eliminated the requirement for a blood test or premarital counseling of couples applying for a marriage license. Instead, the law requires that couples be provided educational materials regarding prenatal care, and on the transmission and prevention of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.

5. Once the above requirements have been met, the couple may apply for their license. One applicant may fill out the application in person, as long as he/she has the necessary information and I.D. for both parties.

6. There is a THREE DAY WAITING PERIOD. The waiting period consists of three days from the day of application. The license may be picked up in St. Joseph or Niles, the location where applicant applied, on or after the third day after application unless that day is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday. In that case, the license may be picked up on the first working day after the weekend or holiday. Be prepared to provide the identification information mentioned above.

7. The license is valid for 33 days from the first day after the date of application.

8. The fee is $20.00 for Michigan residents and $30.00 for out-of-state residents. **MICHIGAN MARRIAGE LICENSES MUST BE USED IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN.** All participating witnesses to the ceremony must be 18 years of age or older.

9. The St. Joseph office hours are 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.
The Niles office hours are 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

***** Please allow 30 minutes for processing when you pick up your marriage license.**
***** All participating witnesses to the ceremony must be 18 years of age or older.**

Berrien County Printing

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BERRIEN COUNTY
MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATION

First Middle Last
FULL NAME OF: ☐ MALE ☐ FEMALE ☐ OTHER

SURNAME ON BIRTH CERTIFICATE, IF DIFFERENT

PRESENT AGE DATE OF BIRTH

BIRTHPLACE - CITY AND STATE

RESIDENCE NO. STREET

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE

RESIDENCE COUNTY NUMBER OF TIMES PREVIOUSLY MARRIED

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

FULL NAME OF PARENT (First, Middle, Last)

SURNAME AT BIRTH BIRTHPLACE

FULL NAME OF PARENT (First, Middle, Last)

SURNAME AT BIRTH BIRTHPLACE

AND

First Middle Last
FULL NAME OF: ☐ MALE ☐ FEMALE ☐ OTHER

SURNAME ON BIRTH CERTIFICATE, IF DIFFERENT

PRESENT AGE DATE OF BIRTH

BIRTHPLACE - CITY AND STATE

RESIDENCE NO. STREET

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE

RESIDENCE COUNTY NUMBER OF TIMES PREVIOUSLY MARRIED

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

FULL NAME OF PARENT (First, Middle, Last)

SURNAME AT BIRTH BIRTHPLACE

FULL NAME OF PARENT (First, Middle, Last)

SURNAME AT BIRTH BIRTHPLACE

DAYTIME TELEPHONE NUMBER

ANTICIPATED WEDDING DATE

PRINT IN NEWSPAPER?
☐ YES or ☐ NO

LOCATION OF WEDDING: _____