



News Release

FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge
19th Judicial Circuit
Lake County
Waukegan, Illinois 60085-4359

Date of Release: June 19, 2020
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

MARRIAGES AND CIVIL UNIONS TO RESUME

In light of the Coronavirus Pandemic, and in order to protect the health and safety of the general public, judges, and court employees, marriages and civil unions were suspended on the 17th of March. Beginning Monday, June 22nd, the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit will start officiating weddings and civil unions, virtually for active-duty members of the military and couples where at least one participant is a Lake County resident.

To have a judge officiate a wedding virtually, please follow these instructions:

1. Obtain a Marriage License from the County Clerk's Office (18 N. County Street, Waukegan, 1st Floor). While the County Clerk's Office is temporarily closed, an appointment to apply for the license is required. Please call Vital Records at 847-377-2400 (Monday through Friday 8:30 am – 5 pm).
2. Visit the Clerk of the Circuit Court's Office to pay the \$10 fee (cash only) the day the wedding license is issued. The Circuit Clerk will keep the original license and present it to the judge assigned to officiate the ceremony. (The office is in the lower level of the Courthouse).
3. On the day of the wedding, before noon, contact Court Administration at 847-377-3696 to schedule the ceremony. Time slots will be available Monday through Friday only from 2:30 pm to 4:15 pm on a first-come, first-served basis.
4. Instructions will be given to go to the [Remote Court Hearings](#) section of the [19th Judicial Circuit](#) website. Scroll down to the Courtroom that was assigned by Court Administration, click on "Schedule," find the correct date, click "Join Now" in the "PM" column. Please note the ZOOM Meeting ID and Password will be required and can be found on the date's "PM" court session information. Enter the virtual courtroom 5 minutes before the scheduled time and have the device on mute until instructed by the judge to unmute.
5. The judge will confirm the names of both parties and their current location (the ceremony can only be performed if both parties are in Lake County). Be prepared to show proof of identity.
6. The judge will have the original marriage certificate. After the ceremony, the judge will arrange for the marriage certificate to be properly recorded by the County Clerk and mailed back to the address provided for the record.
7. If the parties change their minds and would like someone other than a judge to perform the ceremony, call 847-377-3696 to arrange the pickup of the license. If the ceremony does not take place within 60 days of the license being issued or the choice is made to have someone other than a judge officiate the ceremony, the \$10 fee will be forfeited.

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