

Public Act 26-141, Sections 6 and Section 7 as it pertains to Marriage Licenses in Connecticut

Public Act 26-141, Sections 6 and Section 7 Updates Connecticut General Statute Section 46b-24 and 46b-25.

EFFECTIVE DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2026

The update adds a minimum 48 hour waiting period from the time the marriage license application is completed in the town where the wedding ceremony will take place, before the marriage license may be issued.

The update also changes the date used to calculate the time period the license is valid for. Effective October 1, 2026, the license is valid for sixty-five days from the date the license is issued. This is a change from before in which the validity was calculated from the date of the application.

The “application” as explained in § Sec. 46b-25 is when the applicant(s) appear in person in front of the registrar, the license is completed in its entirety, dated, signed and sworn by each applicant. If the license is signed and sworn by the applicants on different dates, the later date is the date of application.

To summarize, the application is the completion of the license (Spouse One section, Spouse Two section and License section) in its entirety in person.

The application is not any other forms or online submissions used by the towns for operational purposes; the application is also not the filling out of a Marriage license worksheet. The Marriage license worksheet is a tool to assist in the creation of marriage licenses.

The forty-eight (48) hour period begins after both applicants have completed their portion, dated, signed and swore to the facts they provided on the license. The license portion also requires the signature of the local registrar at the time of application.

The 48-hour issuance timer starts the minute the 2nd applicant signs and dates the license section of the Marriage license.

Local Registrar Impact: As of October 1, 2026, the local registrar will issue the marriage license after a minimum of 48 hours has passed once the applicants have completed Spouse One and Spouse Two sections, and have signed, dated and been sworn in the license section of the marriage license. The local registrar will hold the completed application/marriage license for no less than 48 hours before issuing license to the applicant(s).

The new language states “no such license may be issued by the registrar sooner than forty-eight hours after the time of such application.”

To assist and simplify, we have drafted an example schedule from application to issuance.

In the below example, all licenses applied for on a Monday, can have issuance on Thursday, which will ensure the full 48-hour minimum period has passed for all Monday applications regardless of the time of the day on which the application was completed and regardless of the varied business hours of the office.

Day of Application	Day of Issuance (ensure min of 48 hrs. has passed)
Monday	Thursday (of same week)
Tuesday	Friday (of same week)
Wednesday	Monday (of following week)
Thursday	Monday (of following week)
Friday	Monday (of following week)
Saturday	Tuesday (of following week)

Prior to issuing the license the local registrar will complete the Registrar of Vital Records section of the license to include the name of the town the event will occur in, the date the license must be used on or before (calculated by adding 65 days to the date you are issuing the license), the signature of the issuing official, the title of the issuing official, and the date (Month, Day, Year) that the license was issued.

State Registrar Impact:

By October 1, 2026, State Office of Vital Records will update the Marriage License Laws PDF to include the new language. Update the most recent revision date field related to the Marriage License Laws document on the Forms Requisition for Towns. The OVR will provide these two updated documents to all 169 Connecticut Towns via email for town usage effective 10/01/2026. The DPH State Vital Records Office Marriage and Civil Union Certificates page and license to Get Married page will be updated on the DPH website. The Vital Records chapter of the Town Clerks guide will be updated and distributed to all 169 towns.