Bridgeport is getting better every day because folks like you are choosing the city for your nuptials. Congratulations on your marriage and much happiness on this momentous day.

Joe Ganim
Mayor
If you are planning to marry, you and your spouse-to-be must appear in person at the Vital Records office for a marriage license. You must apply for your license at the vital records office of the city where the marriage is to take place. You will need to supply the following information:

- Name and telephone number of person performing ceremony (i.e. Justice of the Peace, Pastor, Priest, Rabbi, etc.). A complete listing of Bridgeport Justices of the Peace is enclosed within this booklet.
- Date and location of marriage ceremony.
- Your parents’ names including your mother’s maiden name, and their place of birth.
- Valid government-issued photo ID for each party.
- Social Security Card, if you do not know your number.
- Fee is $50 (cash or money order only) no personal checks.
- Non-English speaking applicants will be accommodated. Please give advance notice if possible. On Mondays after 5 p.m., a translator may not be available.

**Note:**

- Parties must arrive at office before 6 p.m. on Monday; and before 4 p.m. on Tuesday-Friday. Process takes about 30 minutes to complete.
- If couple appear together the license may be taken that day; otherwise, it is held until both parties have appeared.
- The office does not go to institutions or private homes to process marriage license applications. All parties must appear before the registrar at the registrar’s office during normal business hours.
- If you want a copy of your certified certificate after the marriage ceremony, please wait one week before applying. The fee is $20 (cash or money order only).
- A marriage license is valid for 65 days. (You must get married within 65 days of applying for your license.)
- There is no waiting period between applying for and receiving your license.
- You no longer need to have a blood test to obtain a marriage license in Connecticut.

**Office Hours:**

Monday 9 A.M. until 6 P.M.  
Tuesday-Friday 9 A.M. until 4 P.M.  
Closed on Saturday and Sunday  
203-576-7475 or 7476
Sec. 46b-22. (Formerly Sec. 46-3). Who may join persons in marriage. Penalty for unauthorized performance. (a) Persons authorized to solemnize marriages in this state include (1) all judges and retired judges, either elected or appointed, including federal judges and judges of other states who may legally join persons in marriage in their jurisdictions, (2) family support magistrate, state referees and justices of the peace who are appointed in Connecticut, and (3) all ordained or licensed members of the clergy, belonging to this state or any other state, as long as they continue in the work of the ministry. All marriages solemnized according to the forms and usages of any religious denomination in this state, including marriages witnessed by a duly constituted Spiritual Authority, are valid. All marriages attempted to be celebrated by any other person are void. (b) No public officials legally authorized to issue marriage licenses may join persons in marriage under authority of a license issued by such public official. (c) Any person violating any provision of this section shall be fined, not more than fifty dollars.

Section 46b-22a. Validation of marriages performed by unauthorized justice of the peace. All marriages celebrated before June 6, 2014, otherwise valid except that the justice of the peace joining such persons in marriage did not have a valid certificate of qualification, are validated, provided the justice of the peace who joined such persons in marriage represented himself or herself to be a duly qualified justice of the peace and such persons reasonably relied upon such representation.

Section 46b-22b. Refusal to solemnize or participate in ceremony solemnizing a marriage on religious grounds. (a) No member of the clergy authorized to join persons in marriage pursuant to section 46b-22 of the general statutes shall be required to solemnize any marriage in violation of his or her right to the free exercise of religion guaranteed by the first amendment to the United States Constitution or section 3 of article first of the Constitution of the state. (b) No church or qualified church-controlled organization, as defined in 26 USC 1312, shall be required to participate in a ceremony solemnizing a marriage in violation of the religious beliefs of that church or qualified church-controlled organization.

Section 46b-23. (Formerly Sec. 46-4). Joining persons in marriage knowingly without authority. Any person who undertakes to join persons in marriage, knowing that he is not authorized to do so, shall be fined not less than two hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than one year or both.

Section 46b-24. License. Period of validity. Penalty for solemnization without license. Validity of marriage ceremony. (a) No persons may be joined in marriage in this state until both have complied with the provisions of sections 46b-24, 46b-25 and 46b-29 to 46b-33, inclusive, and have been issued a license by the registrar for the town in which the marriage is to be celebrated, which license shall bear the certification of the registrar that the persons named therein have complied with the provisions of said sections. (b) Such license, when certified by the registrar, is sufficient authority for any person authorized to perform a marriage ceremony in this state to join such persons in marriage, provided the ceremony is performed within a period of not more than sixty-five days after the date of application. (c) Anyone who joins any persons in marriage without having received such license from them shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars. (d) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, in order to be valid in this state, a marriage ceremony shall be conducted by and in the physical presence of a person who is authorized to solemnize marriages.

Section 46b-24a. Validation of marriages occurring in town other than town where license issued. All marriages celebrated before June 14, 2014, otherwise valid except that the license for any such marriage was issued in a town other than the town in which such marriage was celebrated, or where either party to the marriage resided at the time of the marriage license application, are validated.

Section 46b-25. (Formerly Sec. 46b-46). Application for license. No license may be issued by the registrar until both persons have appeared before the registrar and made application for a license. The registrar shall issue a license to any two person eligible to marry under this chapter. The license shall be completed in its entirety, dated, signed and sworn to by each applicant and shall state each applicant's name, age, race, birthplace, residence, whether single, widowed or divorced and whether under the supervision or control of a conservator or guardian. The Social Security numbers of both persons shall be recorded in the "administrative purposes" section of the license. If the license is signed and sworn to by the applicants on different dates, the earlier date shall be deemed the date of application.

Section 46b-28. When marriages in foreign country are valid. All marriages in which one or both parties are citizens of this state, celebrated in a foreign country, shall be valid: (1) Each party would have legal capacity to contract such marriage in this state and the marriage is celebrated in conformity with the law of that country; or (2) the marriage is celebrated, in the presence of the ambassador or minister to that country from the United States in the presence of a consular officer of the United States accredited to such country, at a place within his consular jurisdiction, by any ordained or licensed clergyman engaged in the work of ministry in any part of the United States or in any foreign country.
Section 46b-20. Definitions. As used in this chapter: (1) "Registrar" means the registrar of vital statistics; (2) "Applicant" means applicant for a marriage license; (3) "License" means marriage license; and (4) "Marriage" means the legal union of two persons.

Section 46b-20a. Eligibility to Marry. A person is eligible to marry if such person is: (1) Not a party to another marriage, or a relationship that provides substantially the same rights, benefits and responsibilities as a marriage, entered into in this state or another state or jurisdiction, unless the parties to the marriage will be the same as the parties to such other marriage or relationship; (2) Except as provided in section 46b-30 of the general statutes, at least eighteen years of age; (3) Except as provided in section 46b-29 of the general statutes, not under the supervision or control of a conservator; and (4) Not prohibited from entering into a marriage pursuant to section 46b-21 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

Section 46b-21. Marriage of persons related by consanguinity or affinity prohibited. No person may marry such person’s parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, sibling, parent’s sibling, sibling’s child, stepparent or stepchild. Any marriage within these degrees is void.