

## ALBERTA MARRIAGE LAWS

Prior to being married, couples must obtain an Alberta Marriage License from a registry in the Province of Alberta. The Marriage License is valid for three months from the date of issue.

To obtain the license both the bride and the groom must provide the following information:

- ❖ proof of identification
- ❖ full name of father and birth place of father
- ❖ maiden and full name of mother and birth place of mother
- ❖ if divorced; decree absolute
- ❖ if widowed; death certificate of former spouse

License may be purchased in Banff at the Banff Bureau, 229 Bear Street, (phone) 403-762-2177. If documentation is in order, it is possible to obtain a marriage license and be married on the same day.

Couples from out of province may arrange for their marriage license in advance through the Banff Bureau at [www.banffbureau.com](http://www.banffbureau.com) or [email@banffbureau.com](mailto:email@banffbureau.com)

Once everything is in place the marriage license is turned over to the Marriage Commissioner. The license will not be returned. A Civil Marriage Statement (certificate) is provided by the Marriage Commissioner upon completion of the wedding ceremony, however, this is not the official document. The Government of Alberta Vital Statistics issues the legal Certificate of Marriage after the marriage is registered. The appropriate application form can be obtained with the marriage license.

Two witnesses of at least 18 years of age are required for the ceremony. It is not necessary that the witnesses have prior knowledge of the couple.

Civil marriage ceremonies may be conducted at any location.

Blood tests and waiting periods are not required for marriage in Alberta.

Marriage ceremonies may be performed with the aid of an interpreter if the bride & groom do not understand English.