



Your Courthouse Wedding: Essential Checklist

This quick guide provides key items to bring and a timeline for planning your special day at the Olmsted County Government Center.

On Your Wedding Day: Essentials to Bring

- **For the Couple:**
 - Driver's License, State ID, or Passport (for both)
 - Social Security Number (SSN) (for both)
 - Information/Proof of previous marriage termination (if applicable: date, location, court name, or date/place of death for deceased spouse)
- **For Your Witnesses:**
 - Valid ID or Passport (for each of your two witnesses, who must be 16+)

- **Optional (but recommended!):**
 - Wedding rings
 - Personal vows
 - Flowers / Small bouquet
 - Bubbles for exit (confirm with venue if inside)
 - Snacks and water for before/after
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Your Planning & Celebration Timeline

Before the Wedding:

- [] **Gather Vital Records:** Collect all necessary identification and divorce/death decree information (if applicable).
- [] **Consider Premarital Education:** Complete the 12-hour course if you wish to save \$75 on license fees.
- [] **Apply for Marriage License Online:** Fill out the Minnesota Official Marriage System (MOMS) application (valid for 6 months).
- [] **Pick Up & Sign Marriage License:** Both parties must visit the Olmsted County Government Center within 90 days of applying to sign and pay for the license.
- [] **Schedule Ceremony Appointment:** Call the court administrator (+1 (507) 722-7264) 2-4 weeks in advance (remember the 5-day waiting period after license application).
- [] **Invite Guests & Witnesses:** Confirm attendance with your chosen guests and two witnesses.
- [] **Select a Photographer:** Choose a style that you like.
- [] **Select Location for Family Photos:** Choose a spot like Mayo Park, Art Center Plaza, or a downtown street.
- [] **Make a List of Family Photos:** Prepare a list of desired group shots to ensure no one is missed.
- [] **Pick a Restaurant:** Reserve a celebratory dinner location.
- [] **Reserve a Weekend Stay:** Book an Airbnb with a pool or a nice hotel for the weekend to extend the celebration.

On the Wedding Day (Example Afternoon):

- [] **2:30 PM:** Arrive at Courthouse (allow extra time for parking/check-in).
- [] **3:00 PM:** Ceremony begins (approx. 15-20 min).
- [] **3:45 PM:** Exit Courthouse, celebrate!
- [] **4:00 PM:** Family and group pictures.
- [] **4:30 PM:** Travel to portrait locations.
- [] **4:45 PM:** Couple's portrait session.
- [] **6:00 PM:** Head to celebratory dinner.

After the Wedding:

- [] **Announce Your Marriage:** Share your joyous news with non-invited friends and family (e.g., photo announcement, personalized postcards).
 - [] **Update Personal Records:** Change marital status with Social Security, bank, employer, etc.
 - [] **Celebrate!** Enjoy being married!
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For more information to plan your wedding day, visit
<https://www.french-touch-photography.com/>

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