



The following are frequently asked questions (FAQs) related to [Executive Order 202.20](#), issued by Governor Andrew Cuomo on April 18, 2020, regarding marriage during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Questions regarding Executive Order 202.20 may be sent to registrar@health.ny.gov.

For complete instructions on marriage processes, please refer to the Local Registrar Procedure Manual.

Is the Solemnization Period extended indefinitely, or will there be a new expiration date for the Solemnization Period?

The 60-day solemnization period will go into effect once the state of emergency has ended. All those who have received a marriage license will need to marry within 60 days following the end of the emergency.

If individuals are unable to marry within 60 days, but hold a marriage license that was obtained within the state of emergency, they may obtain a second marriage license with fees waived.

How do we document that the marriage license falls under the Solemnization Period waiver?

If the marriage license was issued and the date in which the solemnization period expires fell within the state disaster emergency period declared in New York State, then the couple is entitled to a waiver in the marriage license solemnization period. The state disaster emergency was first declared on March 7, 2020.

The Town and City Clerk should inquire with counsel to see how the executive order may affect their local town or city laws, rules, and/or policies associated with documents required to issue marriage licenses.

How do we determine if a couple is eligible for a marriage license fee waiver?

If the couple can produce a marriage license obtained during the period of the state disaster emergency plus or minus a 60 day solemnization period, and the marriage was not executed, then the marriage license fee shall be waived if they apply for another one.

How do we document that a marriage was issued with the fee waived?

The Town or City Clerk will use the local systems normally used to issue such certificates.

How does this affect the documents required by the Town/City Clerk to issue a marriage license?

Each Town and City Clerk apply their own requirements associated with documentation required for the issuance of marriage licenses. The Town and City Clerk should inquire with counsel to see how the executive order may affect their local town or city laws, rules, and/or policies associated with documents required to issue marriage licenses.