

Marriage at River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation

If you are planning to get married at River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation (RRUUC) contact the main office at 301-229-0400 to schedule the ceremony and use of the building. The Ministers of RRUUC are available to officiate weddings and provide pre-marital counseling for Members and Friends of RRUUC.

As of January 1, 2013, same-sex couples can get married in Maryland.

Couples who are already married in another jurisdiction cannot get re-married in Maryland even to the same person. You must have a finalized divorce to be able to get married in Maryland. If you are divorced you must provide a copy of the divorce decree that indicates where and when the divorce took place in order to obtain a marriage license. Civil unions and domestic partnerships to a person other than the one you want to marry must also be dissolved prior to getting married in Maryland. If you are seeking to get married and you have a civil union or domestic partnership with the person you want to marry, that marriage is allowed in Maryland.

To get married at River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation (RRUUC) you will need a marriage license from the Clerk of the Montgomery County Circuit Court regardless your county of residence. A marriage license in Montgomery County costs \$55. If both parties of the marrying couple are residents of Montgomery County, one of the parties to be married can appear before the Clerk and give, under oath, the required information for both parties. For more information, go to http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/cibtmpl.asp?url=/Content/CircuitCourt/Court/LicenseDepartment/Marriage_License.asp.

The marriage license must be obtained at least 48 hours before the marriage ceremony. The effective date of the marriage license is normally 6 am on the second calendar date after issuance. Couples can obtain a waiver if a judge approves it. Military service or a family illness can be the grounds for a waiver.

If you are not a resident of Maryland and are unable to apply for a marriage license in person 48 hours prior to the wedding ceremony, you can complete a "Non Resident Affidavit," to be signed by your local clerk of the circuit court (it cannot be a clerk located in Maryland) or comparable official in your state. A copy of this form is available at <http://www.courts.state.md.us/clerks/calvert/pdf%20attachments/nonresaffidavit.pdf>. Contact the License Department for additional information (Phone: 240-777-9460).

In Montgomery County, clerks can begin accepting and processing license applications for same-sex couples on December 6, 2012 and even issue licenses prior to January 1, 2013. The licenses cannot have an effective date earlier than January 1, but as of January 1, couples with those licenses will be able to get married. The marriage license must be used within six months or it will expire. If you are getting married at RRUUC, the celebrant needs to fill out and return a Minister's Return Form.

If a couple has been previously married in another state or country and one of the parties is a resident of Maryland, the couple may record the marriage at their circuit court in the same office where they would obtain a marriage license (an out-of-state marriage is considered a "foreign marriage"). The parties must provide a certificate of marriage signed by the individual who performed the marriage or certified copy of the marriage record. There is no fee to record a foreign marriage. However, a certified copy of the recordation is available for \$5.50 per copy. A renewal of wedding vows has no legal effect in Maryland. However if you would like to renew your wedding vows, you might consider combining this with the registration of your foreign marriage for a more formal recordation of the event.