Marrying in Massachusetts

In beginning your new life together, there are legal consideration to follow while planning your big day.

All people who marry in Massachusetts must have a marriage license issued in Massachusetts. An out-of-state marriage license cannot be used, you must follow the same protocol as a resident of the state of Massachusetts.

State law requires that both parties apply in person and jointly file marriage intentions with any city or town clerk in the Commonwealth. Town of Dennis Clerk's Office is located at 485 Main Street, South Dennis, MA 02660, telephone number 508-760-6112, fax number 508-394-8309. You can file for a license Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, the fee is $25.00, cash or check (no credit cards).

Both applicants must be 18 years of age or older to file marriage intentions. Otherwise, a court order must be obtained. A marriage license is valid for 60 days from the date intentions are filed and may be used in any Massachusetts' city or town. There is a mandatory 3 day waiting period from the date of application to the date the license is issued. This can be waived following a hearing before a probate or district court judge when a couple can show “good reason”. After the waiting period, only one person has to pick up the license.

Massachusetts statute does not require that any witnesses be present at your ceremony. It is the responsibility of the officiating clergy or justice of the peace to complete and sign the original license as well as return it to the city or town where the license was issued.
When planning your Dennis wedding on beautiful Cape Cod, there are several things you should keep in mind.

The most popular months for weddings on Cape Cod are May, June, September and October and the most requested day of the week is Saturday. Alternative days are becoming popular and will find greater availability with shorter advance planning.

The Wedding Guide was designed to make the planning of your special day more enjoyable and less stressful.

The businesses you find listed below are knowledgeable and would enjoy helping you with your individual needs for your wedding.

Dennis offers a wide range of accommodations from full service resorts to the most intimate Bed & Breakfasts.

For a complete list of our accommodations in the Dennis area, check out our website www.DennisChamber.com or pick up our Dennis Visitor Guidebook.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** additional lodging not listed below, go to our website

- An English Garden, B&B, Dennisport ........................................... 508-398-2915
- By the Sea Guests B&B, Harwichport ........................................... 508-432-6789
- Corsair & Cross Rip Oceanfront, Dennisport .................................. 508-398-2279
- Holiday Hill Inn & Suites ............................................................ 508-394-5577
- Inn at Swan River ........................................................................ 508-394-5415
- Scargo Manor B&B, Dennis .......................................................... 508-385-5534
- Soundings Seaside Resort ............................................................. 508-394-6561
- The Breakers .............................................................................. 508-398-6905
- The Lighthouse Inn, West Dennis ................................................ 508-398-2244
- Three Seasons Motor Lodge, Dennisport ..................................... 508-398-6091

**BAKERY**

WEDDING CAKE and much more!

- Montilio’s of Ring Brothers, South Dennis ...... 508-394-1346
- Woolfies Bakery, Dennisport ............................................ 508-258-9980
BEAUTY SALONS, BARBER SHOP, NAIL CARE
Andrea’s Co., West Dennis ......................................................... 508-760-0666
Jeremy’s Barber Shop, Dennisport .............................................. 508-398-8613
Emily Michael Too Skin & Nail Care, South Dennis ................. 508-760-5655

Need a great massage, visit www.DennisChamber.com

CATERERS for more restaurants for rehearsal dinners or
Breakfast, visit our website
Dennis Inn, Dennis .......................... 508-385-6571
East Dennis Oyster Farm, Dennis ........ 508-398-3123
Lighthouse Inn, West Dennis ................ 508-398-2244
Lobster Roll Cruises, Dennis .............. 508-398-3123
Morrell’s Restaurant/Catering, South Dennis ...................... 508-394-0577
SeaView Restaurant, Dennisport .............. 508-398-0100
Treats Catering, Dennis ....................... 508-385-1540
West Dennis Yacht Club ....................................................... 508-398-9757

CHURCHES
Congregational Church, So. Dennis............................... 508-394-5992
Dennis Church of the Nazarene, South Dennis .............. 508-394-4854
Dennis Union Church, Rte. 6A, Dennis ...................... 508-385-3543
East Dennis Community Church, E. Dennis .............. 508-385-3989
Evangelical Free Church of East Dennis, East Dennis .... 508-385-3989
First Baptist Church ....................................................... 508-432.2792
Holy Trinity Church, W. Harwich ....................... 508-432-0650
Mid-Cape WorshipCenter ................................................ 508-394.2345
Northside United Methodist Church, Dennis-Brewster line 508-385-8622
Our Lady of the Annunciation, Dennisport (summer only) 508-432-0650
St. George Greek Orthodox Church of Cape Cod, Centerville 508-775-3045
Saint Pius the Tenth, South Yarmouth .......................... 508-398-6623
West Dennis Community Church, W. Dennis .......... 508-398-6420
Zion Union Church ....................................................... 508-771-4311

FLORISTS
Blossoms Florist and Gifts, Dennis ............... 508-394-0963
Petal & Stem Florist, South Yarmouth ....... 508-394.3013

JEWELERY
Tipo’s Creations ....................................................... 508-398.4040
The American Point of View, West Dennis ........ 508-619-4855

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
Stephanie Lowell, South Dennis .................. 508-398-3123
Jacquelyn K. Souza, Town Clerk for Dennis .......... 508-760-6112
Eleanor Slade, West Dennis ....................... 508-394-1900
LIMOUSINES
First Class Limousines, Hyannis ....................................................888-522-8816

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Photoglow, Dennis..................................................................... 508-385-9673

RECEPTION LOCATIONS to include beaches
Cape Cod Museum of Art, Route 6A, Dennis...............................508-385-4477
Chapin’s Restaurant, 85 Taunton Avenue, Dennis .....................508-385-7000
Dennis Inn, 25 Scarsdale Road, Dennis ......................................508-385-6571
Hy-line Cruise, Private Charter, Ocean Street, Hyannis ............800-492-8082
Lighthouse Inn, Lighthouse Road, West Dennis .......................508-398-2244
Lobster Roll Cruises, (Boat) Sesuit Harbor, Dennis .................508-398-3123
Ocean House, Chase Avenue, Dennisport ...............................508-394-0700
Scargo Tower (historical site), Natural Resource Department ......508-760-6123
SeaView Restaurant, Chase Avenue, Dennisport ......................508-398-0100
The Red Pheasant Inn, Route 6A, Dennis .................................508-385-2133
Town of Dennis Beach Department for permit on beach ............508-760-6159
West Dennis Yacht Club, 259 Loring Avenue, West Dennis ......508-398-9757

RENTALS FOR GAZEBOS: There are two gazebos in the Town of Dennis where you can hold your wedding. One Route 6A in Dennis Village and one off of Hall Street in Dennisport. There is a fee to rent and each location is managed by a community association.
• Route 6A/Dennis Village Bandstand:
  Contact the Village Improvement Society at (508) 385-2175
• Dennisport gazebo: Contact South Side Civic Association at (508) 398-8640

SHOPPING: registry, wedding gifts, visit our website.
Armchair Cottages, Dennis....................................................... 508-385-4808
Deborah Ann’s Rainbow, Dennisport ........................................ 508-398-8662
Jewelry By Etta, West Dennis.................................................. 508-394-8964
Jewelry Inspiration, West Dennis ..............................................508-619-4855
Snow’s Home & Garden, Orleans & Harwich .........................(508) 432-9014 or 255-0158
Sola Gallery II, Dennis ............................................................. 508-385-6632

TRANSPORTATION/TRAVEL INFORMATION
AAA Southern New England, Dennis............................................508-760-4778
Avis Car Rental, Hyannis ...........................................................800-331-1212
Barnstable Municipal Airport, Hyannis ....................................508-775-2020
Budget Car Rental .................................................................800-527-0700
Enterprise Car Rental, Hyannis ..............................................800-736-8222
Hertz Car Rental, Hyannis .......................................................800-654-3131
Hy-line Cruise Ferry, Hyannis .................................................800-492-8082
Plymouth & Brockton Bus Lines, Hyannis ...............................508-746-0378
Steamship Authority Ferry, Hyannis .......................................508-477-8600
Twelve to Eighteen Months Ahead

- Determine your budget and style of wedding (formal, informal, etc.)
- Set a date and time. Be sure to check for holidays and any local special events that may occur at that time that may affect your plans (e.g., Dennis Road Race)
- Choose and book clergy/justice of the peace. Visit your officiate with your finance and select service type.
- Book ceremony site and choose reception site.
- Consider hiring a wedding consultant.
- Choose attendants and invite them to be part of your wedding party.
- Interview and select photographer, videographer, musicians, entertainment and/or DJ.
- Draw up your guest list; have your finance’s family do the same.
- Shop for your engagement ring.
- For additional advice and ideas, check out the wedding section of your local bookstore and library.

Six to Twelve Months Ahead

- Discuss ceremony music
- Plan your honeymoon.
- Select what the groom, best man, ushers and father will wear.
- Enroll with the bridal registry of your favor stores.
- Book caterer.
- Choose and order your wedding gown and accessories.
- Shop for and choose bridesmaids’ dresses.
- Book limousines or arrange other wedding transportation.
- Shop for your engagement ring.
- Choose florist and arrangements; ask about aisle runners.
- Schedule any premarital counseling.
- Book make-up artist for wedding day.
- Schedule engagement photograph.
- Pick out wedding rings, arrange for engraving.
- Discuss your ceremony together with your officiate choosing readings, music, vows and order.

Four to Six Months Ahead

- Order invitations, thank you cards and other printed materials (napkins, matchbooks, programs, stationery, etc.)
- Suggest mothers choose their dresses.
- Schedule rehearsal, book rehearsal dinner location.
- Reserve tents, rental chairs, tables and linens, other rental equipment.
- Order wedding cake.
- Schedule dance lessons.
- Shop for your trousseau.
- Make accommodation arrangements for out of town attendants & family.
- Finalize ceremony details, ask family and friends to do readings, sing or take part in other ways.
- Firm up menu for the reception and all details 2-4 months ahead.
- Look into suggestions for out-of-town wedding guest accommodations.
**One to Two Months Ahead**

- Apply for marriage license, valid for 60 days in Massachusetts.
- Reconfirm rehearsal with ceremony site.
- Address and mail invitations (6-8 weeks ahead), include maps.
- Purchase guest book.
- Have final fittings for bride, groom and attendants.
- Have formal portrait taken. At the same time have a copy made for newspaper announcement insertion.
- Finalize honeymoon plans.
- Choose wedding gifts for each other
- Make beauty appointments.
- Pick up wedding rings.
- Record each gift as received and write a thank you note promptly.
- Shop for going away outfits.
- Finalize reception song list and agenda with your entertainment.
- Finalize types of photos and picture locations with your photographer.
- Keep track of RSVP’s.

**Two to Four Weeks Ahead**

- Make sure you have your marriage license.
- Pick up your gown and accessories.
- Reconfirm arrangements with all ceremony and reception service vendors.
- Finalize plan for the ceremony and reception. Write out place cards.
- Try on headpiece with wedding hairstyle.
- Decide who will be in the receiving line.
- Address wedding announcements.
- Choose a guest book attendant.
- Finalize the guest list and call any guests who have not responded.

**One to Two Weeks Ahead**

- Give final count and seating arrangements to caterer.
- Arrange for travelers checks and pick up honeymoon tickets.
- Start packing!
- Give bridesmaids’ party or luncheon.
- Keep up with thank you notes.
- Confirm rehearsal plans with clergy/justice of the peace and attendants.
- Give gifts to attendants.
- Assign wedding day duties to attendants, family and friends.
- Break in your wedding shoes.
- Organize checks for any services to be paid on the wedding day.
- Pick up men’s formal wear. Make sure all pieces are included & fit.

**The Day Before**

- Rehearse ceremony with attendants and family members.
- Attend rehearsal dinner.
- Update seating chart.
- Reconfirm wedding transportation.
- Mail wedding announcements.

**Your Wedding Day**

- Have hair, nails and make up done.
- Bring wedding rings and marriage license.
- Be dressed early for pre-ceremony photographs.
- Try to be on time.
# Brides Attire

## Bridal Shop
- Shop: ________________________________
- Address: ____________________________
- Contact: ____________________________ Phone: ______________

### Brides Wedding Gown
- Size: ________ Cost: ________ Date Ordered: ________
- Color: ________ Deposit: ________ Est. Arrival Date: ________
- Style: ________ Balance: ________ Delivery Date: ________
- 1st Fitting: ________ 2nd Fitting: ________ Final Fitting: ________

### Brides Headpiece
- Color: ________ Cost: ________ Date Ordered: ________
- Style: ________ Deposit: ________ Est. Delivery Date: ________
- Balance: ________ Delivery Date: ________

## Bridal Accessories/Undergarments

### Attendants’ Gowns
- Sizes: ________ Cost: ________ Date Ordered: ________
- Color: ________ Deposit: ________ Est. Arrival Date: ________
- Style: ________ Balance: ________ Delivery Date: ________
- 1st Fitting: ________ 2nd Fitting: ________ Final Fitting: ________

### Attendants’ Headpieces
- Color: ________ Cost: ________ Date Ordered: ________
- Style: ________ Deposit: ________ Est. Delivery Date: ________
- Balance: ________ Delivery Date: ________

### Attendants’ Shoes
- Sizes: ________ Cost: ________ Date Ordered: ________
- Color: ________ Deposit: ________ Est. Delivery Date: ________
- Style: ________ Balance: ________ Delivery Date: ________
Grooms Attire

Menswear Shop
Shop: ________________________________
Address: ________________________________
Contact: ________________________________ Phone ________________________________

Attire for Groom, Best Man, Users & Ringbearer
Size: _______ Cost: _______ Date Ordered: _______
1st Fitting: _______ 2nd Fitting: _______ Final Fitting: _______
Deposit: _______ Balance: _______ Pick Up Date: _______

Sizes
Coat: _______ Trousers: _______ Vest: _______
_______ _______ _______
Shirt: _______ Cummerbund: ______ Shoes: _______
_______ _______ _______

Accessories:
Cuff Links: _______ Socks: _______ Tie: _______
Who Pays for What?

The Bride
- Wedding ring for the groom
- Wedding gift for the groom
- Presents for the bridal attendants
- Personal stationery
- Accommodations for her out-of-town attendants
- Physical examination/blood test

The Groom
- The bride’s ring
- Wedding gift for the bride
- Marriage license
- Gifts for the best man and ushers
- Flowers: Bride’s bouquet and going away corsage, corsages for both mothers, boutonnieres for men in the wedding party.
- Accommodations for his out-of-town groomsmen
- His physical exam/blood test
- Gloves, ties, ascots for the men in the wedding party
- Fee for the Clergy/Justice of the Peace
- The Honeymoon
- Bachelor dinner (optional)

The Groom’s Family
- Clothes for the wedding
- Any traveling expenses and hotel bills they incur
- Wedding gift for the newly-to-be-weds
- Rehearsal dinner (optional)

The Bride’s Family
- Entire cost of the reception: food, wedding cake, beverages, gratuities for the bartenders and waiters, decorations, music, and flowers
- Wedding gift for the happy couple
- Wedding invitations, announcements and postage
- Bride’s wedding attire/autheau
- Fee for engagement and wedding photographs

Tipping: Most gratuities will be included in the fees, but it is customary to tip some of the following professionals who helped to make your day special. The following is a list for proper tipping protocol: Clergy Member -- usually a $10 and up donation, Limousine, D.J., Photographer -- 15%, Waiters, Waitresses -- 15%, Captains -- 1 to 2% and Maitre D' -- 15%.
DENNIS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VISITOR CENTER

The Chamber's Mission is to promote and enhance responsible business growth; support Community, Civic and Cultural activities; and serve as a Resource Center for visitors, residents and members.

Intersection of Route 134 & 28, West Dennis, MA 02670

The place for everyone to stop by whether you are a resident or a visitor!

For info call 508-398-3568 or email info@dennischamber.com

www.DennisChamber.com

Pick up brochures on lodging, dining, shopping, etc. or download from our website.
Dennis, Massachusetts
CAPE COD