



Kern County

SHERIFF

In-Custody Marriage Information

FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE DIRECTIONS MAY RESULT IN A
DELAY OR CANCELLATION OF THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY.

Please Read these instructions and guidelines prior to completing or signing any forms.

Inmate:

To initiate the in-custody marriage process, your **intended spouse** should contact the Kern County Clerk's Office at:

1115 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301
(661) 868-3588

Note: If you are being held in the custody of the Kern County Sheriff's Office for an outside agency (U.S. Marshalls, ICE, CDCR, etc.), that agency will be notified of your intent to marry and will review the request.

Your involvement in the marriage request process is now complete. Your intended spouse should follow the directions below. You will be notified by facility staff at any point in which your participation is required.

Intended Spouse:

1. You will need to obtain an "Inability to Appear" package from the Kern County Clerk's Office.
2. The County Clerk's Office will require an official "Notice of Incarcerated Individual" (G-900 Attachment B) from the Sheriff's Office stating that the inmate to be married is in custody. To obtain a notice, contact the Administrative Sergeant of the facility where the inmate is housed:

Lerdo Pre-Trial Facility
(661) 391-7900

Lerdo Minimum Security Facility
(661) 391-7800

Lerdo Max/Med Security Facility
(661) 391-7856

Central Receiving Facility
(661) 868-6850

3. The facility Administrative Sergeant will make arrangements, during normal facility visiting times, for the inmate to sign an "Affidavit of Inability to Appear and Request for Issuance of a Marriage License" in the presence of the intended spouse and a notary.
4. The intended spouse and Marriage Officiant must go to the County Clerk's Office to take an oath and receive a marriage license. The Marriage Officiant will need to stand in for inmate during this process.



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5. After receiving a marriage license, the intended spouse will need to contact the Administrative Sergeant of the facility where the inmate is housed to schedule the marriage ceremony during normal facility visiting times. Marriage ceremonies for inmates housed at the Minimum facility will be conducted at either the Max-Med or Pre-Trial Facilities. The marriage ceremony shall occur within the visiting hours of the designated facility.
6. The intended spouse, Marriage Officiant, witness and/or interpreter will be searched upon entering the facility. Any attempt, actual or otherwise, to smuggle any illegal substance, weapon, or contraband into the facility will result in arrest and the marriage ceremony will be cancelled.

Marriage process and ceremony rules:

- Requests to marry shall be submitted in writing at least seven days prior to the marriage ceremony.
- All fees including, but not limited to, the marriage license, are to be paid in advance to the County of Kern.
- Inmates may not marry another incarcerated person.
- All marriage arrangements including, securing the marriage license, obtaining the availability of the designated Marriage Officiant, and any related fees, are the responsibility of the inmate and or his/her intended spouse.
- Inmates in disciplinary isolation may not participate in any marriage ceremony during their disciplinary period.
- The Sheriff's Office has the right to refuse any marriage ceremony that could compromise the safety and security of the facility, staff, or inmates.
- Any marriage ceremony may not be performed by the jail chaplain or chaplaincy volunteers.
- Marriage Officiants are only allowed to bring their paperwork necessary to complete the marriage ceremony, marriage license, notary book, pen, etc.
- Marriage Officiants are not allowed to conduct notary services other than those necessary during the marriage ceremony. . *Note – Government Code 8224(a) prohibits the notary public who has authenticated the signature of the person who is unable to physically appear in person at the County Clerk's Office from also being the person solemnizing the marriage.
- Marriage ceremonies shall be non-contact.
- Flowers or other ceremonial decorations are not permitted.



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- Exchanges of rings or other symbolic exchanges are not permitted.
- Ceremonies may be civil or religious, but no religious rites beyond readings are permitted.
- Persons permitted to participate in the ceremony are subject to search on jail grounds.
- Cameras, audio, or video recording are not permitted. Any violation of this rule will subject the visitors to immediate removal from the jail grounds and cancellation of the marriage process.
- Media coverage of the marriage ceremony is not permitted.
- Only jail clothing is allowed for the inmate getting married.
- Any inappropriate behavior during the ceremony or the visit period thereafter will be cause for immediate termination of the ceremony.
- Persons permitted to participate in the ceremony are limited to the inmate, his/her intended spouse, the Marriage Officiant, and one witness. If an interpreter is necessary for translation of the service, the interpreter shall serve as the required witness. The interpreter may be chosen by the couple and accompany the intended spouse at the ceremony.
- Marriage ceremonies shall occur during normal facility visiting times. A marriage ceremony will count as one hour of visiting time. Inmates must have one hour of visiting time available for the week.
- Marriage ceremonies shall take place in a non-contact visiting area.
- Inmates will not be allowed to leave the secure confines of their facility for a marriage ceremony except in cases involving Minimum inmates who will be temporarily transferred to a more secure facility.