

From Register Tracey L. Gordon

The primary goal of the Philadelphia Register of Wills Office, which include the Marriage License Bureau, is to provide quality customer service. We encourage everyone to create a will and to talk with loved ones about the importance of estate planning before you pass. Especially, when you are newly married and beginning a life together. Protect your Generational Wealth. Congratulations on your marriage!

*Tracey L. Gordon*

Tracey L. Gordon  
Register of Wills



**#MarriageMural**  
The Register of Wills Office in partnership with Mural Arts Philadelphia installed a new mural in the Wedding License Bureau. Creating a space where couples can take a nice photo at this pivotal milestone. Painted by Nathaniel Lee in 2021.

# GETTING MARRIED?

We are open by **APPOINTMENT ONLY** until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.



Register of Wills  
Marriage License Bureau  
City Hall Rm 413  
Philadelphia, PA  
(215) 686-2233  
[Phila.gov/wills](http://Phila.gov/wills)  
[MLappt@phila.gov](mailto:MLappt@phila.gov)

The Honorable  
Tracey L. Gordon  
Register of Wills



Make an appointment by emailing  
**MLappt@phila.gov**



**We are open by APPOINTMENT ONLY  
until further notice due to the  
COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.**

**Both applicants must appear together  
in Room 413 City Hall to apply for the  
marriage license.**

The marriage license cannot be  
used for 3 days after its issued  
and is valid for **ONLY 60 days**  
from the issue date on the  
license.



If the license is not used in the  
60-day period it must be  
returned, and the application  
process must be repeated in its  
entirety and the fee re-paid.

**There are two types of Marriage Licenses**  
Standard Marriage License: **\$90**  
Quaker/Self-Uniting License: **\$100**

**If either applicant cannot  
speak or understand  
English. They must be  
accompanied by a  
translator, over the age  
of 18, who possesses  
current, valid photo I.D.**



# Marriage License Bureau

Philadelphia Register of Wills

**Applicants must produce the following  
identification:**

## **CURRENT, VALID PHOTO I.D.**

(driver's/non-driver's license; international driver's  
license; passport; military I.D)

## **A SOCIAL SECURITY CARD**

Or an official entity which reflects the applicant's Social  
Security number (Social Security printout; W-2/tax  
return.)

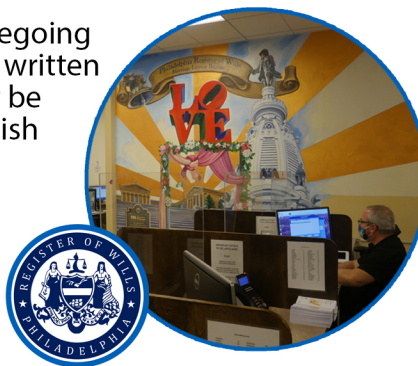
If an applicant does **NOT** possess a Social  
Security number, they must produce a  
Secondary I.D. in the form of a birth certificate  
(officially translated, if appropriate)

**If either applicant was previously married  
(DOCUMENTS MUST BE ORIGINALS)**

A widowed applicant must submit a certified  
copy of the death certificate of the deceased  
spouse.

A divorced applicant must provide a certified  
copy of the most recent divorce decree.

If either of the foregoing  
documents is not written  
in English, it must be  
translated to English  
and notarized.



**HOW TO GET A MARRIAGE  
LICENSE IN PHILADELPHIA**

A STEP BY STEP GUIDE

## **Why should I create a will?**

Creating a will puts you in control of your  
estate after you die. You choose who inherits  
your property and who is the guardian of your  
children. Generational wealth is more than a  
bank account, it can be mementos and  
heirlooms. A will creates an orderly process to  
decide what happens after you die. **When  
you don't create a will the process can be  
very complicated and cause problems in  
the family. Don't leave these choices to  
other people after you pass**

## **What is a Will?**

A will is a document that protects your  
Generational Wealth after you die. It is list of  
assets and instructions that you sign at the  
bottom. It does not need to be notarized but  
that is a best practice. We recommend a "Self  
Proving Affidavit" to make the need of  
producing witnesses unnecessary.

## **10 reasons to have a will**

- 1) Protect Minor Children**
- 2) Rest in peace with your affairs are in order.**
- 3) Choose who manages your estate**
- 4) Control the fate of your estate**
- 5) Control your digital and intellectual assets**
- 6) Create instructions for your funeral**
- 7) Support your favorite cause or charity**
- 8) Its very easy to make a will!**
- 9) Don't create extra work for your loved ones  
after you pass.**
- 10) If you don't make a will the state of PA  
has rules about inheritance that favor  
biology. Called "Intestate." This may be an  
undesirable option.**