

MARRIAGE IN A FLORIDA PRISON

A Simple Guide

What This Means: In Florida prisons run by the Florida Department of Corrections, the marriage process is the official way an incarcerated person and their partner can legally marry.

Following the steps in order starts the process.

Step 1 Both People Must Request the Marriage

1 Both people submit written requests to the warden

Both people submit **written requests**:

- ✓ A written statement saying you both want to marry
- ✓ Parent/guardian approval if under 18



Confirmation from the chaplain or designated staff that they know how marriage works in prison.

2 Prison Staff Review the Request

Psychologist & correctional officer each report whether the marriage risks:

- ✓ Inmate's safety
- ✓ Prison's security
- ✓ Public safety



Decides within 30 days:

- ✓ **If Approves:** Final decision at the prison
- ✓ **If Recommends Denial:** Regional Director decides within 15 days.



If the Marriage Is Approved

3 The Warden Makes the First Decision

Decides within 30 days:

- ✓ **If Approves:** Final decision at the prison
- ✓ **If Recommends Denial:** Regional Director decides within 15 days.



4 Regional Director Review (if Recommended Denial)

Regional Director makes final decision within 15 days.



Regional Director makes final decision

If the Marriage Is Approved

5 The Civilian Handles Most Arrangements

Outside person is responsible.

- ✓ Marriage license.
- ✓ Paperwork.
- ✓ Ceremony arrangements



6 The Prison Handles the Ceremony

- ✓ Prison provides:
- ✓ Marriage license
- ✓ Ceremony space
- ✓ Officiant



Blank marriage license returned to county.

Simple Summary:

1. Both people submit written requests to the warden
2. Prison staff review the request
3. Warden decides within 30 days
4. If denied, the Regional Director makes the final decision
5. If approved, the outside partner handles the marriage license and ceremony arrangements
6. The prison arranges the location and officiant
7. The ceremony is small and controlled by the institution

This process on paper seems pretty quick, but in reality, it can feel slow. Once you receive DOC approval, it is valid for a year.

Note: These procedures vary by each state and facility. This guidance reflects common practice in Florida correctional facilities.

<p style="text-align: center;">STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">INSTITUTION <small>Name of Institution</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">REQUEST TO MARRY</p> <p>On this date, I request approval to marry my fiancé/fiancée while I am still in the custody of the Florida Department of Corrections.</p>
