How to find Washington State MARRIAGE & DIVORCE RECORDS

Who has the records?

Marriage & divorce certificates from January 1, 1968 to two months before the present day are held by the Washington Department of Health. The Washington State Archives might also have copies.

For recent marriage certificates from the last 2 months, contact the county auditor where the license was filed. For divorce certificates, contact the county clerk.

For marriage certificates before January 1, 1968, the Washington State Archives has copies of many of them. (see next section) Otherwise, contact the county auditor where the license was obtained.

For divorce certificates before January 1, 1968, the Washington State Archives might have copies. (see next section) The county clerk in each county will have copies for certificates issued in their county.

Washington State Archives

Many county auditors have given the marriage records held in their offices to the Washington State Archives. They will be held at one of the 5 Archives branches around the state. Check out the map to locate the correct branch for your county.

Washington State Archives has digitized many of the marriage records in their collections, and the records that have been digitized can be viewed for free on the Washington State Digital Archives web site.

WA Digital Archives has some early divorce records listed in their Frontier Justice Index.

Many county clerks have given copies of the divorce records they hold to the Washington State Archives. To see if records for a particular county are at the State Archives, go to the Search Page, and do a search on the county name and the keyword divorce.

How can I find a marriage or divorce date?


For marriage dates before 1968, it is more difficult to locate dates. If the record you are looking for has been scanned into the Washington Digital Archives, you can locate the date there.

Otherwise, you will need to try various organizations, print and online resources, such as a county auditor’s office, state and county archives, libraries and genealogical societies.
The genealogy collection at the Washington State Library includes over 50 titles indexing early marriages in the Pacific Northwest. You can browse our online catalog to see what areas, and what years are covered.  

www.sos.wa.gov/library/catalog.aspx

We are not aware of any pre-1968 divorce indexes for Washington State.

**Additional Resources:**

**Clark County**


**Island County**

Island County Marriage Index 1855 – 1891 - http://usgwarchives.net/wa/island/island.htm
Island County Marriage Index 1859-1915 - http://usgwarchives.net/wa/island/island.htm

**King County**

The King County Archives has marriage records, and several marriage indexes in its collection. The 1853-1900 index is online.  www.kingcounty.gov/operations/archives/vital/marriage/index.aspx
Their complete marriage index, from 1853-1983 is available to search in house only.

At the King County Recorder’s Office web site, you can search for a marriage record from 1979 to the present.  www.kingcounty.gov/business/Recorders/RecordsSearch.aspx

**Pierce County**

Pierce County Recorder’s Office has marriage dates from 1980’s to the present.  
http://armsweb.co.pierce.wa.us/

**Stevens County**

Stevens County Marriage Index 1859-1864 - http://usgwarchives.net/wa/stevens/stevens.htm
Stevens Co. Marriage Index 1886-1890 - http://usgwarchives.net/wa/stevens/stevens.htm

**Pacific Northwest**

British Columbia Marriages 1859-1936 - http://search.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/sn-41E0088/gbsearch/Marriages
California Marriage Records 1949-1985 - (access by subscription only, state library has a subscription)  
www.vitalssearch-ca.com/gen/ca/ vitals/camarrin.htm
Kootenai, ID Marriage Index 1885-1910 - www.usgwarchives.net/id/kootenai/kootenai.htm
Multnomah County (Portland, OR) Marriages 1855-1910 - www.gfo.org/multcomar.htm
Old Western States Marriage Record Index - http://abish.byui.edu/specialCollections/westernStates/search.cfm
Oregon Divorce Index 1946-60, 2001-2004 - (access by subscription only, state library has a subscription)  
www.vitalssearch-ca.com/gen/or/ vitals/ordivorm-go.htm
Oregon Historical Records Index (includes marriages) - http://genealogy.state.or.us/
Oregon Marriage Records 1921-24, 1946-2004 (access by subscription only, state library has a subscription)  
www.vitalssearch-ca.com/gen/or/ vitals/ormarriim-go.htm