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Michigan Wedding License + Planning Checklist

A short guide for couples planning a wedding in Michigan.

License basics

Apply with the county clerk where you want the license issued.
Michigan requires a license before a marriage is solemnized.
Both people must be 18 or older. If the clerk asks, bring a birth certificate or other proof of age. (MCL 551.103)
The clerk does not deliver the license for 3 days, counting the day you apply. The clerk may deliver it immediately for good and sufficient cause. That waiver has a fee set by the county board of commissioners. (MCL 551.103a)
The license is void unless the marriage is solemnized within 33 days after the application. (MCL 551.103a)
Rules can change, and counties set their own waiver fee. Read the statute and confirm the current steps with the county clerk before you count on a date.

Sources: MCL 551.101, MCL 551.103, and MCL 551.103a, Michigan Legislature, legislature.mi.gov. Checked November 16, 2026.

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Twelve months out

12 to 9 months

Talk through the feeling of the day, the season, and a rough guest count.
Choose a date range and ask the places you love which days are open.
Write a shared guest list and note who is traveling.
Ask two or three people to stand with you, when you are ready.

9 to 6 months

Book the ceremony and reception date you have chosen.
Meet an officiant, a photographer, and a musician or playlist plan.
Start attire: appointments, alterations time, and what the wedding party wears.
Sketch the ceremony order and the readings or music you want.

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The last six months

6 to 3 months

Send save-the-dates, especially for guests who are traveling.
Choose a caterer or menu plan, and ask about dietary needs.
Order invitations and note the reply date.
Plan flowers, rentals, and a simple timeline for the day.

3 months to the week of

Mail invitations and track replies.
Apply for the marriage license inside the 33-day window, not before.
Confirm attire fittings, the ceremony script, and who is walking where.
Share a one-page day-of timeline with the people helping you.
Pack rings, vows, copies of the license, and a small kit for the morning.