

Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Tribal Court
58620 Sink Road, Dowagiac, MI 49047
(269) 783-0505



GENERAL INFORMATION

There are basically four steps for having a marriage sanctioned under the laws of the Pokagon Band *Marriage Code*: (1) the filing of the *Application for a Marriage License* by the parties to be wedded; (2) issuance of the *Marriage License* by the Tribal Court; (3) solemnization of the marriage (must be solemnized on reservation land within 30 days of issuance of the *Marriage License*; and (4) issuance of the *Certificate of the Marriage* by the Tribal Court.

Location of Marriage: A marriage performed pursuant to the *Marriage Code* must be solemnized within the Band's reservation land. "Reservation" means, pursuant to 25 U.S.C. § 1300j-5 of the Pokagon Restoration Act or other applicable federal law, (i) all lands, the title to which is held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Pokagon Band; and (ii) all lands proclaimed by the Secretary of the Interior to be part of the Band's reservation. The term "Reservation" includes any rights-of-way running through the Reservation. As such, the marriage ceremony must be held on reservation land, which includes the Tribal Court, Pokagon Band property (other than the Court), and Four Winds Casino Resort.

If you would like to have your wedding ceremony on Pokagon property (other than at the Court), contact:

Administration
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians
58620 Sink Road
P.O. Box 180
Dowagiac, MI 49047
800-517-0777

If you would like to have your wedding ceremony at Four Winds Casino Resort, contact:

Timothy Adams
Sales / Catering Manager
Four Winds Casino Resort
11111 Wilson Rd
New Buffalo, MI 49117
timadams@fourwindscasino.com
www.fourwindscasino.com
Direct - 269-926-5216
Cell – 269-405-7605
Fax - 269-926-5357

If you wish to have the marriage solemnized by a Judge at the Tribal Court, please inform the Court Clerk at the time you file your wedding application. If your marriage is to be solemnized by a Tribal Court judge, you will also need to pay the solemnization fee at that time you file the Application. The fees are listed below.

Fees:	Filing Fee for Application for a Marriage License	\$50.00
	Marriage Solemnization Fee (for solemnization by Tribal Court)	\$150.00
	Certified Copy of Certificate of Marriage	\$10.00

Please refer to the Pokagon Band *Marriage Code* for other requirements.

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Instructions for Filing an Application for a Marriage License

1. Obtain and process the following forms as follows:
 - a. *Application for a Marriage License*:
 - 1) Obtain an *Application for a Marriage License* from Tribal Court. You can either request the Court to mail you the *Application* or you can obtain the *Application* online at the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi website at <http://www.pokagonband-nsn.gov/government/tribal-court/court-forms>.
 - 2) Complete the *Application*. Be sure to read the *Application* carefully and complete it in full. Incomplete applications may be rejected.
 - 3) Have the *Application* notarized. Under the Band's *Marriage Code*, the *Application* must be signed by the marrying parties in front of a notary public. If not notarized, the Court will not be able to accept your *Application*.
 - b. *Certificate of the Provision of Educational Materials in Fulfillment of the Requirements of the Pokagon Band Marriage Code* form. This form is for obtaining written certification by a Pokagon Band health care provider that each person has received educational materials regarding prenatal care, the transmission and prevention of HIV and of venereal disease. To process this form, do the following:
 - 1) Obtain the *Certification* form from Tribal Court. The Court will mail the *Certification* upon your request, or you can obtain the *Certification* online at the Pokagon Band's website at <http://www.pokagonband-nsn.gov/government/tribal-court/court-forms>.
 - 2) Make an appointment with Pokagon Band Health Services to have the *Certification* completed by a Pokagon Band Health Services health care provider. Call (269) 782-4141 to make the appointment.
2. File a complete marriage license application package with Tribal Court, in person, by U.S. mail, or by private courier. A complete application package consists of the items listed below. Please note that failure to file a complete application package may result in delays or rejection of the application.
 - a. notarized *Application for Marriage License*;
 - b. proof that one of the parties is a Pokagon Band citizen by Tribal photo identification (at least one person applying for a marriage license must be a Pokagon Band Tribal citizen);
 - c. proof of age of both parties by copy of a birth certificate, driver's license, state or Tribal photo identification;
 - d. written certification by a health provider or laboratory that each person has taken an HIV test (YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO REVEAL THE RESULTS OF THE TESTS TO THE POKAGON BAND);
 - e. *Certificate of the Provision of Educational Materials in Fulfillment of the Requirements of the Pokagon Band Marriage Code* completed by a Pokagon Band Health Services health provider; and
 - f. payment of the filing fee(s):
 - \$50.00 fee for *Application for Marriage License*
 - \$150.00 marriage solemnization fee (ONLY if you wish to have the marriage solemnized by a Tribal Court judge)

Payment is due at the time you file the *Application*. Make your payment payable to the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Tribal Court. Payment can be made by credit card, cash (if paid in person), certified check or money order.

3. *Marriage License*: Contact the Court three (3) business days after you file your *Application* to determine a time for you to pick up the *Marriage License* in person from Tribal Court. If you prefer that the *License* be mailed to you, tell the Court when you call. Please note that if you choose to receive the license by mail, you must pay the cost of postage and provide a complete mailing address to the Court. The Tribal Court is **NOT RESPONSIBLE** if the *Marriage License* is lost in the mail. It is your responsibility to contact the Court if you do not receive the *Marriage License* in the mail within a reasonable time.

A Marriage License cannot be issued earlier than three (3) business days from the date a completed Application is filed with the Court.

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Marriage License Instructions

A *Marriage License* is valid for only thirty (30) days from the date of issuance by the Tribal Court. Therefore, after the License is issued, you must have the marriage solemnized (or the marriage ceremony performed) within 30 days of the issuance of the *License*. Below are the instructions for processing the marriage license.

1. Prior to the wedding, on the date of the wedding ceremony, give the Tribal Court-issued *Marriage License* to the person who will solemnize the marriage for his or her review.
2. After the wedding ceremony, the *Solemnization Acknowledgement* section of the *Marriage License* must be completed as follows:
 - a. Both marrying parties must sign the *Solemnization Acknowledgment*.
 - b. The person who solemnized the marriage must complete and sign the *Solemnization Acknowledgment*.
 - c. Have the two witnesses to your marriage (must be at least eighteen (18) years of age) sign the *Solemnization Application*.
3. **THE PERSON WHO SOLEMNIZED THE MARRIAGE MUST FILE THE FULLY COMPLETED *MARRIAGE LICENSE* WITH THE TRIBAL COURT WITHIN TEN (10) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE SOLEMNIZATION OF THE MARRIAGE.**

Issuance of the Certificate of Marriage

1. The Tribal Court Clerk will issue a *Certificate of Marriage* within ten (10) business days of the filing of a completed *Marriage License*, provided the Marriage License conforms to the requirements of the *Marriage Code*.
2. The Court will provide you with one certified copy of the *Certificate of Marriage*. Additional certified copies of the *Certificate of Marriage* may be obtained from the Court upon request and payment of \$10.00 for each certified copy payable to the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Tribal Court by credit card, money order or cash.