

2002

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Wisconsin  
**Marriages**  
and **Divorces**

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*Bureau of Health Information  
Division of Health Care Financing  
Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services*

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# Wisconsin Marriages and Divorces

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June 2003

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## Introduction

This report presents key information about marriages and divorces that occurred in Wisconsin in 2002. It also contains information from selected previous years, as well as information on the number and rate of marriages and divorces, both in Wisconsin and nationally. The sources of data for Wisconsin are marriage and divorce certificates on file with the Bureau of Health Information, Division of Health Care Financing, Department of Health and Family Services.

The collection of marriage and divorce data is mandated by Chapter 69 of the Wisconsin Statutes. Chapter 69 authorizes the Department of Health and Family Services to supervise and direct the collection of these data. This statute also specifies how local registrars are to collect and file certificates of marriage. Samples of the marriage and divorce certificates are included in the Technical Notes.

The Department of Health and Family Services produced this publication. Staff of the Vital Records Registration and Statistics Unit, Bureau of Health Information, collected and compiled the marriage and divorce records. Joyce Knapton drafted the summaries in this report and produced the computer programs to generate the tables. Patricia Nametz edited the report. The report was prepared under the supervision of John Kiesow, State Registrar, Vital Records Section, and Jane Kraus, Supervisor, Registration and Statistics Unit. John Chapin, Director, Bureau of Health Information, provided overall direction.

The Bureau of Health Information would like to thank the County Clerks for issuing accurate marriage licenses and the local Register of Deeds offices for their accurate recording of all marriage records.

This report is also available on the Department of Health and Family Services Web site, at [www.dhfs.state.wi.us/stats](http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/stats).

Comments, suggestions, and requests for additional marriage or divorce data may be addressed to:

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## Key Findings

- A total of 34,241 marriages occurred in Wisconsin in 2002, representing a decrease from the 34,790 marriages that occurred in 2001. These counts reflect all marriages that occurred in Wisconsin (of both residents and non-residents of the state).
- Wisconsin's marriage rate in 2002 was 6.3 per 1,000 total population, lower than the 2001 rate of 6.5 per 1,000 and continuing the gradual decline that began after 1980 when the rate was 8.7 per 1,000.
- The marriage rate in Wisconsin has been consistently lower than the national rate for more than 80 years. In 2001, the United States marriage rate was 8.5. The 2002 United States marriage rate was unavailable at the time this report was compiled.
- The median age for first marriages in 2002 was 24.8 years old for women and 26.3 years old for men. In 1960, the median age at first marriage was 20.4 for brides and 22.9 for grooms.
- Since 1960, the bride in a first marriage, on average, has been approximately two years younger than the groom.
- In 2002, the months with the highest number of marriages were June, August and September. June was the most popular month to marry.
- Milwaukee County had the highest number of marriages in 2002 (5,187), followed by Dane County (2,858), Waukesha County (2,329), and Brown County (1,659). These are Wisconsin's four most populous counties. Each of these counties had an increase in the number of marriages from 2001 to 2002 except for Milwaukee County, where marriages decreased by more than 200.
- A total of 17,471 divorces occurred in Wisconsin in 2002, for a divorce rate of 3.2 per 1,000 total population. This is slightly lower than the 2001 rate (3.3).
- The divorce rate in Wisconsin has been consistently lower than the national rate for more than 80 years. In 2001, the United States divorce rate was 4.0 per 1,000 total population. The 2002 United States divorce rate was unavailable at the time this report was compiled.
- In 2002, the total number of Wisconsin divorces was 51 percent of the total number of Wisconsin marriages. This is higher than the 2001 percentage (50 percent).
- The highest number of divorces occurred in Milwaukee County (2,689 divorces and 9 annulments), followed by Dane County (1,428 divorces and 6 annulments) and Waukesha County (1,006 divorces and 1 annulment), reflecting the large populations of these three counties.
- Fifty-five percent of all Wisconsin divorces in 2002 involved families with children under 18 years of age. Among divorces involving families with children, an average of 1.8 children were affected by each divorce.

**Table 1. Marriages and Marriage Rates, Wisconsin and United States, Selected Years, 1920-2002**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Wisconsin Marriages</u>	<u>Wisconsin Marriage Rate*</u>	<u>United States Marriage Rate*</u>
1920	22,293	8.4	12.0
1925	16,385	5.8	10.3
1930	15,328	5.2	9.2
1935	21,075	6.9	10.4
1940	23,379	7.5	12.1
1945	25,269	8.5	12.2
1950	29,081	8.4	11.1
1955	25,543	7.0	9.3
1960	24,573	6.2	8.5
1965	28,410	6.7	9.3
1970	34,415	7.8	10.6
1975	35,888	7.9	10.0
1980	41,113	8.7	10.6
1985	40,014	8.4	10.1
1990	38,934	8.0	9.8
1995	36,354	7.1	8.9
2000	36,100	6.7	8.5
2001	34,790	6.5	8.4
2002	34,241	6.3	

Source: U.S. marriage rates are from the National Center for Health Statistics, *National Vital Statistics Reports*. Wisconsin numbers and rates are from the Bureau of Health Information, Division of Health Care Financing, Department of Health and Family Services. The Wisconsin marriage rate for 2002 was calculated using 2001 population figures.

\* Rates shown are marriages per 1,000 total population.

Notes: The Wisconsin numbers and rates reflect marriages that occurred in Wisconsin. The U.S. marriage rate for 2001 is provisional based on marriages that occurred from January-December, 2001. The U.S. marriage rate for 2002 was unavailable at the time this report was compiled.

- A total of 34,241 marriages occurred in Wisconsin in 2002, representing a decrease from the 34,790 marriages that occurred in 2001.
- Wisconsin's marriage rate in 2002 was 6.3 per 1,000 total population, lower than the 2001 rate of 6.5 and continuing the gradual decline that began after 1980 when the rate was 8.7.

**Table 2. Median Age at First Marriage and All Remarriages, Wisconsin 1960-2002**

<u>Year</u>	<u>First Marriages</u>		<u>All Remarriages</u>	
	<u>Bride</u>	<u>Groom</u>	<u>Bride</u>	<u>Groom</u>
1960	20.4	22.9	39.9	45.1
1965	20.6	22.5	40.4	45.2
1970	20.8	22.6	37.4	42.6
1975	20.8	22.7	32.4	37.1
1980	21.7	23.5	31.7	34.9
1985	22.9	24.7	33.7	36.9
1990	23.8	25.5	38.3	41.6
1991	23.9	25.6	38.6	41.7
1992	24.1	25.7	38.8	42.3
1993	24.2	25.8	39.0	42.0
1994	24.3	25.8	39.4	42.3
1995	24.5	26.0	39.9	42.6
1996	24.6	26.2	40.4	43.6
1997	24.6	26.3	40.7	43.4
1998	24.6	26.3	41.1	43.9
1999	24.6	26.3	41.6	44.5
2000	24.7	26.3	41.7	44.6
2001	24.7	26.3	42.3	45.2
2002	24.8	26.3	42.9	45.5

Source: Bureau of Health Information, Division of Health Care Financing, Department of Health and Family Services.

Note: The median age is one way of expressing the average age, and represents the midpoint of all persons in the group (half are older and half are younger than the median age). For example, in 1995 the median age for brides at first marriage was 24.5, meaning that half of all brides being married for the first time in 1995 were younger, and half were older, than 24.5. The numbers in this table reflect all marriages that occurred in Wisconsin in the stated years.

- The median age for first marriages in 2002 was 24.8 years old for women and 26.3 years old for men. In 1960, the median age at first marriage was 20.4 for brides and 22.9 for grooms.
- Since 1960, the bride in a first marriage, on average, has been approximately two years younger than the groom.

## Marriages

**Table 3. Marriages and Remarriages by Age of Bride and Groom, Wisconsin 2002**

Age in Years	Bride					Groom				
	Total Marriages	First	Second	Third	Fourth or More	Total Marriages	First	Second	Third	Fourth or More
	<b>34,241</b>	<b>23,987</b>	<b>7,980</b>	<b>1,909</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>34,241</b>	<b>24,271</b>	<b>7,946</b>	<b>1,711</b>	<b>313</b>
16	104	104				9	9			
17	140	140				28	28			
18	590	589	1			183	182	1		
19	966	965	1			446	446			
20	1,281	1,272	9			669	665	4		
21	1,640	1,628	12			1,107	1,105	2		
22	2,081	2,050	31			1,522	1,510	12		
23	2,531	2,450	80	1		1,855	1,827	26	2	
24	2,447	2,340	103	4		2,222	2,188	33	1	
25-29	8,712	7,534	1,126	50	2	9,361	8,723	618	20	
30-34	4,727	2,938	1,586	191	12	5,902	4,403	1,393	104	2
35-39	3,098	1,113	1,600	335	50	3,652	1,781	1,606	244	21
40-44	2,330	530	1,284	449	67	2,613	828	1,446	299	40
45-49	1,614	211	942	363	98	1,820	354	1,035	356	75
50-54	949	78	545	262	64	1,229	133	737	293	66
55-59	453	23	271	114	45	720	56	426	179	59
60-64	237	10	138	75	14	359	20	214	97	28
65-69	154	9	113	25	7	222	10	146	56	10
70-74	84	3	62	16	3	154	2	112	34	6
75+	103		76	24	3	168	1	135	26	6

Source: Bureau of Health Information, Division of Health Care Financing, Department of Health and Family Services.

Note: Totals shown represent marriages that occurred in Wisconsin in 2002.

- For first-time brides, the highest number of marriages occurred between the ages of 21 and 24. For first-time grooms, the highest number of marriages occurred between the ages of 23 and 29.
- In 2002, first-time grooms in Wisconsin outnumbered first-time brides by nearly 300.

## Marriages

**Table 4. Monthly Marriage Totals by County, Wisconsin 2002**

<u>County</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>
<b>State Total</b>	<b>34,241</b>	<b>1,075</b>	<b>1,540</b>	<b>1,404</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>3,292</b>	<b>4,844</b>	<b>3,430</b>	<b>4,842</b>	<b>4,343</b>	<b>3,739</b>	<b>1,898</b>	<b>1,634</b>
Adams	116	4	7	2	7	8	17	12	19	12	12	6	10
Ashland	142	4	6	9	3	17	18	16	27	19	14	4	5
Barron	312	7	8	11	23	16	53	31	52	40	30	19	22
Bayfield	131	3	3	2	7	9	16	18	30	25	9	3	6
Brown	1,659	40	68	72	119	138	238	167	239	217	191	100	70
Buffalo	74	2	1	3	6	7	11	5	11	16	7	2	3
Burnett	107	7	4		4	11	21	11	13	12	10	8	6
Calumet	196	6	6	9	14	15	27	19	34	25	23	12	6
Chippewa	415	7	20	15	19	44	51	40	72	63	48	20	16
Clark	225	9	9	7	19	24	28	27	26	24	33	10	9
Columbia	368	12	20	7	15	44	60	31	47	38	47	24	23
Crawford	111	3	5	2	7	8	14	15	21	17	11	3	5
Dane	2,858	93	119	116	166	288	392	339	418	344	286	152	145
Dodge	496	15	19	29	28	45	72	52	69	69	55	17	26
Door	458	18	28	13	25	44	64	57	61	55	57	17	19
Douglas	258	4	12	10	20	22	31	31	43	25	33	10	17
Dunn	218	10	12	7	17	20	39	17	34	22	21	12	7
Eau Claire	606	16	30	21	44	59	101	58	83	73	68	28	25
Florence	26	1			3	2	7	4	5	2	1	1	
Fond du Lac	638	15	28	29	40	66	81	54	97	93	66	32	37
Forest	66	4	5	2	3	4	9	7	11	10	6	4	1
Grant	298	5	11	10	15	29	49	31	41	55	26	18	8
Green	211	4	9	6	15	13	34	18	38	26	22	11	15
Green Lake	169	2	11	8	9	20	18	12	29	17	31	9	3
Iowa	158	2	3	6	9	20	23	12	29	22	18	10	4
Iron	32	1		3		4	3	6	5	7		3	
Jackson	130	7	2	7	6	16	15	11	17	24	13	4	8
Jefferson	528	23	27	30	36	47	79	43	64	68	65	21	25
Juneau	152	7	6	4	13	13	23	20	16	20	17	4	9
Kenosha	789	26	41	42	50	76	102	75	106	98	82	51	40
Kewaunee	119	2	5	4	8	10	21	8	17	12	17	7	8
La Crosse	706	20	22	20	41	64	110	80	94	94	97	35	29
Lafayette	95	3	3	6	5	10	15	13	10	10	12	6	2
Langlade	149	4	3	5	9	21	19	22	24	12	15	9	6
Lincoln	215	9	14	4	12	17	34	24	33	35	23	3	7
Manitowoc	584	17	35	18	44	54	83	59	69	64	74	44	23
Marathon	774	30	29	32	47	64	117	77	114	120	77	37	30
Marinette	255	8	16	12	17	20	36	28	40	31	25	7	15
Marquette	87	2	8	2	4	7	8	6	13	17	11	6	3
Menominee	40	2		3	2	5	8	2	5	7	4	2	
Milwaukee	5,187	164	252	241	351	515	677	515	685	593	556	346	292
Monroe	309	4	14	16	22	31	43	38	31	35	38	22	15

## Marriages

**Table 4. Monthly Marriage Totals by County, Wisconsin 2002**

<u>County</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>
Oconto	208	5	6	10	12	25	28	19	27	23	24	12	17
Oneida	307	11	12	14	23	24	45	32	48	46	23	10	19
Outagamie	1,252	51	68	59	80	134	182	125	155	135	142	74	47
Ozaukee	451	11	22	14	30	49	67	39	61	70	47	24	17
Pepin	51	1	2	2	5	6	4	2	9	11	6	2	1
Pierce	189	4	7	5	11	11	36	22	39	27	14	7	6
Polk	247	3	11	6	18	18	48	24	34	36	33	7	9
Portage	362	6	23	13	28	39	54	28	46	53	38	20	14
Price	102	5	5	4	3	6	17	10	15	14	13	5	5
Racine	1,009	44	47	56	58	85	138	98	164	114	88	66	51
Richland	121	5	3	5	9	17	18	9	17	14	12	5	7
Rock	871	21	48	43	52	79	127	96	122	99	88	54	42
Rusk	98		5	2	5	15	19	7	17	6	10	8	4
St. Croix	429	23	16	12	32	37	69	56	53	57	40	14	20
Sauk	531	18	23	13	38	41	77	42	78	73	71	30	27
Sawyer	139	3	10	7	7	13	16	14	23	19	13	10	4
Shawano	222	9	15	9	11	18	34	18	42	25	23	10	8
Sheboygan	751	37	37	32	54	73	96	66	98	105	81	36	36
Taylor	120	2	4	6	9	17	12	19	13	13	12	4	9
Trempealeau	144	6	5	5	10	23	20	14	16	18	17	5	5
Vernon	161	6	11	5	10	18	20	15	21	22	20	8	5
Vilas	144	3	3	5	5	12	22	13	28	24	14	8	7
Walworth	798	24	33	42	41	70	107	77	113	118	88	42	43
Washburn	100	3	4	2	6	12	9	9	10	18	11	7	9
Washington	645	16	22	20	52	64	99	54	88	84	78	40	28
Waukesha	2,329	71	77	82	144	236	331	250	334	297	271	136	100
Waupaca	421	13	24	16	29	38	60	36	60	59	51	16	19
Waushara	144	6	4	14	10	6	14	14	18	24	13	14	7
Winnebago	918	26	49	39	62	103	136	71	130	110	97	55	40
Wood	510	20	23	17	42	56	72	40	71	61	50	30	28

Source: Bureau of Health Information, Division of Health Care Financing, Department of Health and Family Services.

Note: These numbers represent marriages that occurred in Wisconsin in 2002.

- In 2002, the months with the highest number of marriages were June, August and September. June was the most popular month to marry.
- Milwaukee County had the highest number of marriages in 2002 (5,187), followed by Dane County (2,858), Waukesha County (2,329), and Brown County (1,659). These are Wisconsin's four most populous counties. Each of these counties had an increase in the number of marriages from 2001 to 2002 except for Milwaukee County, where marriages decreased by more than 200.
- The lowest number of marriages occurred in the counties of Florence (26), Iron (32) and Menominee (40).

**Table 5. Divorces and Divorce Rates, Wisconsin and United States, Selected Years, 1920-2002**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Wisconsin Divorces</u>	<u>Wisconsin Divorce Rate*</u>	<u>United States Divorce Rate*</u>
1920	2,425	0.9	1.6
1925	2,467	0.9	1.5
1930	2,553	0.9	1.6
1935	3,543	1.2	1.7
1940	3,599	1.1	2.0
1945	6,393	2.2	3.5
1950	4,845	1.4	2.6
1955	4,720	1.3	2.3
1960	3,672	0.9	2.2
1965	5,232	1.2	2.5
1970	8,930	2.0	3.5
1975	13,187	2.9	4.8
1980	17,589	3.7	5.2
1985	16,596	3.5	5.0
1990	17,727	3.6	4.7
1995	17,313	3.4	4.4
2000	17,388	3.2	4.2
2001	17,457	3.3	4.0
2002	17,471	3.2	

Source: U.S. divorce rates are from the National Center for Health Statistics, *National Vital Statistics Reports*. Wisconsin numbers and rates are from the Bureau of Health Information, Division of Health Care Financing, Department of Health and Family Services. The Wisconsin divorce rate for 2002 was calculated using 2001 population figures.

\* Rates shown are divorces and annulments per 1,000 total population.

Notes: The Wisconsin numbers and rates represent divorces and annulments occurring in Wisconsin. The U.S. divorce rate for 2001 is provisional based on divorces that occurred from January-December, 2001. The U.S. divorce rate for 2002 was unavailable at the time this report was compiled.

- A total of 17,471 divorces occurred in Wisconsin in 2002, for a divorce rate of 3.2 per 1,000 population. This is slightly lower than the 2001 rate (3.3).
- In 2002, the total number of Wisconsin divorces was 51 percent of the total number of Wisconsin marriages. This was higher than the 2001 percentage (50 percent).

## Divorces

**Table 6. Divorces and Annulments by County, Wisconsin 2002**

<u>County</u>	<u>Divorces</u>	<u>Annulments</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Divorces</u>	<u>Annulments</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,424</b>	<b>47</b>			
Adams	68		Marathon	372	1
Ashland	54		Marinette	153	3
Barron	199		Marquette	46	
Bayfield	57		Menominee	3	
Brown	709	1	Milwaukee	2,689	9
Buffalo	39	1	Monroe	158	
Burnett	62		Oconto	141	
Calumet	113	1	Oneida	159	
Chippewa	247	1	Outagamie	547	
Clark	115		Ozaukee	223	
Columbia	172	1	Pepin	15	
Crawford	62		Pierce	130	
Dane	1,428	6	Polk	140	
Dodge	303		Portage	186	
Door	87		Price	56	
Douglas	143	2	Racine	530	
Dunn	114	1	Richland	67	
Eau Claire	316	2	Rock	576	1
Florence	19		Rusk	55	1
Fond du Lac	307	1	St. Croix	266	
Forest	35		Sauk	252	1
Grant	123		Sawyer	64	
Green	123		Shawano	123	
Green Lake	71		Sheboygan	369	1
Iowa	74		Taylor	81	
Iron	21		Trempealeau	89	2
Jackson	77		Vernon	72	
Jefferson	291	1	Vilas	72	
Juneau	106		Walworth	362	
Kenosha	556	1	Washburn	56	
Kewaunee	62		Washington	374	1
La Crosse	311	1	Waukesha	1,006	1
Lafayette	48		Waupaca	186	
Langlade	92		Waushara	90	1
Lincoln	93		Winnebago	531	4
Manitowoc	217		Wood	271	1

Source: Bureau of Health Information, Division of Health Care Financing, Department of Health and Family Services.

Note: These numbers represent divorces and annulments that occurred in Wisconsin in 2002.

- The highest number of divorces occurred in Milwaukee County (2,689 divorces and 9 annulments), followed by Dane County (1,428 divorces and 6 annulments) and Waukesha County (1,006 divorces and 1 annulment), reflecting the large populations of these three counties.
- The lowest number of divorces occurred in the counties of Menominee (3 divorces), Pepin (15 divorces) and Florence (19 divorces).

## Divorces

**Table 7. Divorces Affecting Children Under 18 Years of Age by County, Wisconsin 2002**

<u>County</u>	<u>Divorces Granted</u>	<u>Those Affecting Children &lt; 18</u>	<u>No. of Children &lt; 18 Affected</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Divorces Granted</u>	<u>Those Affecting Children &lt; 18</u>	<u>No. of Children &lt; 18 Affected</u>
<b>State Total</b>	<b>17,471</b>	<b>9,627</b>	<b>17,723</b>				
Adams	68	41	70	Marathon	373	202	385
Ashland	54	32	69	Marinette	156	85	143
Barron	199	102	176	Marquette	46	21	37
Bayfield	57	32	44	Menominee	3	1	2
Brown	710	404	751	Milwaukee	2,698	1,314	2,418
Buffalo	40	21	30	Monroe	158	98	185
Burnett	62	33	66	Oconto	141	77	143
Calumet	114	64	124	Oneida	159	94	177
Chippewa	248	136	243	Outagamie	547	296	562
Clark	115	69	131	Ozaukee	223	123	230
Columbia	173	104	191	Pepin	15	11	20
Crawford	62	37	64	Pierce	130	81	169
Dane	1,434	745	1,365	Polk	140	89	170
Dodge	303	181	334	Portage	186	112	211
Door	87	46	74	Price	56	26	55
Douglas	145	86	164	Racine	530	296	544
Dunn	115	60	117	Richland	67	41	70
Eau Claire	318	175	310	Rock	577	352	660
Florence	19	9	18	Rusk	56	33	73
Fond du Lac	308	186	349	St. Croix	266	146	260
Forest	35	17	39	Sauk	253	158	276
Grant	123	75	142	Sawyer	64	35	66
Green	123	81	148	Shawano	123	65	139
Green Lake	71	38	72	Sheboygan	370	218	402
Iowa	74	48	92	Taylor	81	54	105
Iron	21	13	24	Trempealeau	91	51	90
Jackson	77	45	77	Vernon	72	48	85
Jefferson	292	160	295	Vilas	72	37	66
Juneau	106	52	95	Walworth	362	223	406
Kenosha	557	284	514	Washburn	56	32	55
Kewaunee	62	39	82	Washington	375	219	423
La Crosse	312	164	301	Waukesha	1,007	530	948
Lafayette	48	28	43	Waupaca	186	107	185
Langlade	92	53	92	Waushara	91	49	90
Lincoln	93	56	105	Winnebago	535	299	525
Manitowoc	217	126	232	Wood	272	162	305

Source: Bureau of Health Information, Division of Health Care Financing, Department of Health and Family Services.

Note: These numbers represent divorces and annulments that occurred in Wisconsin in 2002.

- Fifty-five percent of all Wisconsin divorces in 2002 involved couples with children under 18 years of age. Among divorces involving children, an average of 1.8 children were affected by each divorce.

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## Technical Notes

### Marriage Reporting Requirements

As specified in Chapter 69, Wisconsin Statutes, the following is a brief outline of the sequence of events which take place when a marriage occurs in Wisconsin:

- The filing party (officiant) must register the certificate of marriage with the local Register of Deeds (where the marriage took place) within 3 days after the event.
- The local Register of Deeds must transmit the marriage certificate to the State Registrar within 10 working days after its receipt.

A sample marriage certificate form can be found on page 16.

### Divorce Reporting Requirements

As specified in Chapter 69, Wisconsin Statutes, the following is a brief outline of the sequence of events which take place when a divorce occurs in Wisconsin:

- At the end of every biweekly period the filing party (clerk of any court) must send to the State Registrar a report of every divorce or annulment of marriage granted during that period. (This is the only legal document pertaining to vital records that is not filed by the local Register of Deeds.)

A sample divorce certificate form can be found on page 17.

HCF-5060 (Rev. 7/00)  
 Wisconsin Statutes,  
 Chapters 69 and 765

Do not complete this form before  
 reading the instructions for  
 Marriage License Application and  
 Original Certificate of Marriage

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES  
**ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE**

STATE FILE DATE

STATE FILE NUMBER

Type or Print  
 Use Permanent  
 Black Ink  
 No Whiteout  
 or Erasures.

Reserved for  
 Vital Statistics

1. GROOM-NAME First Middle Last		2. DATE OF BIRTH Month Day Year	
3a. PLACE OF RESIDENCE: STATE		4. STATE (if NOT in USA Name Country) OF BIRTH	
5. FATHER-NAME First Middle Last		6. MOTHER-NAME First Middle Birth Surname	
7a. BRIDE-NAME First Middle Last		8. DATE OF BIRTH Month Day Year	
9a. PLACE OF RESIDENCE: STATE		10. STATE (if NOT in USA Name Country) OF BIRTH	
11. FATHER-NAME First Middle Last		12. MOTHER-NAME First Middle Birth Surname	
WE HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IS CORRECT TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF AND THAT WE ARE FREE TO MARRY UNDER THE LAWS OF THIS STATE.			
13. GROOM'S SIGNATURE (SIGN BEFORE CEREMONY)		14. BRIDE'S SIGNATURE (SIGN BEFORE CEREMONY)	
THE ISSUE OF THIS LICENSE SHALL NOT BE DEEMED TO REMOVE OR DISPENSE WITH ANY LEGAL DISQUALIFICATION OR PROHIBITION RENDERING MARRIAGE BETWEEN THE PARTIES ILLEGAL. THIS LICENSE IS VALID FOR 90 DAYS AFTER THE DATE ISSUED BY THE COUNTY CLERK.			
15. LICENSE NO.		16. ISSUED BY COUNTY CLERK	
17. DATE OF MARRIAGE: Month Day Year		18. ISSUING COUNTY	
19. DATE OF MARRIAGE: Month Day Year		20a. WHERE MARRIED-COUNTY	
21. OFFICIANT SIGNATURE: I certify that the above named persons were married before me on the above mentioned date		20b. CITY, VILLAGE OR TOWNSHIP	
SIGNATURE (Black Ink Only)		22. ADULT WITNESS TO CEREMONY	
23. OFFICIANT NAME (Print or Type)		SIGNATURE (Black Ink Only)	
25a. OFFICIANT TITLE		25b. OFFICIANT MAILING ADDRESS Street City State ZIP	
26. REGISTRAR SIGNATURE (Black Ink Only)		27. DATE RECEIVED BY LOCAL REGISTRAR Month Day Year	
CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES ONLY (see 69.20(2), 69.16, 42 use 666(9)(5)). THE DATA BELOW THIS LINE MUST NOT BE PERMANENTLY ON FILE IN THE LOCAL REGISTRAR'S OFFICE.			
SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS	NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE (1, 2, etc.)	DATE LAST MARRIAGE ENDED	RACE (White, Black, American Indian, etc.)
33a.	28a.	29a. 1. Death 2. Div. 3. Annul. 30a.	Specify Below
33b.	28b.	*29b. 1. Death 2. Div. 3. Annul. 30b.	Specify Below
			32a. Edu., Second, (9-12)   College (1-4 or 5+)
			32b.

THIS ORIGINAL DOCUMENT MUST BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTER OF DEEDS WITHIN 3 DAYS OF MARRIAGE.  
 NOTE: THIS ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE, LEGIBLY AND COMPLETELY FILLED OUT, MUST BE RETURNED TO THE REGISTER OF DEEDS OF THE COUNTY OF MARRIAGE, WITHIN THREE DAYS FROM THE DATE OF MARRIAGE. MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR NONCOMPLIANCE IS TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$200), OR THREE MONTHS IMPRISONMENT, OR BOTH. (Wis. Statute Sec. 765.30(4)(a))

ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE OR ANNULMENT

TYPE OR  
PRINT IN  
PERMANENT  
BLACK INK

1. HUSBAND - NAME First Middle Last		3. DATE OF BIRTH (Mo., Day, Yr.)	
2a. RESIDENCE - STATE		5. BIRTH SURNAME	
2b. RESIDENCE - COUNTY		7. DATE OF BIRTH (Mo., Day, Yr.)	
4. WIFE - NAME First Middle Last		10a. NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 18 IN THIS HOUSEHOLD AS OF DATE IN 9	
6a. RESIDENCE - STATE		10b. NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 18 WHOSE PHYSICAL CUSTODY WAS AWARDED TO: Husband <input type="checkbox"/> Joint (husband/wife) <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> NONE <input type="checkbox"/>	
6b. RESIDENCE - COUNTY		11a. ATTORNEY OR PROTHONOTARY - NAME (Type or Print)	
8a. PLACE OF THIS MARRIAGE - STATE (If not in USA, Name Country)		11b. ADDRESS NUMBER AND STREET CITY STATE ZIP	
8b. DATE OF THIS MARRIAGE (Month, Day, Year)		12. DATE OF DECREE (Mo., Day, Yr.)	
13. TYPE OF DECREE Divorce <input type="checkbox"/> Annulment <input type="checkbox"/>		15. COURT CASE NUMBER	
16. SIGNATURE OF CERTIFYING CLERK OF COURT		17. DATE SIGNED (Mo., Day, Yr.)	
18. WIFE'S NEW NAME (if applicable)		19. HUSBAND'S NEW NAME (if applicable)	

SAMPLE

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION FOR STATISTICAL USE ONLY [§69.20(2) & 69.15(3)]			
SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	20a. NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE (1, 2, etc.) Specify Below	DATE LAST MARRIAGE ENDED (Mo., Day, Yr.)	RACE (White, Black, American, Indian, etc.) Specify Below
	21a. 1. Death 2. Div. 3. Annul. 22a.	23a.	EDUCATION (Specify only highest grade completed) Elem./Second (10-12) College (1-4 or 5-) 24a.
26b. WIFE	20b. 1. Death 2. Div. 3. Annul. 22b.	23b.	24b.
25a. IF THIS DECREE FINDS THAT ONE OR MORE LIVING CHILDREN CONCEIVED OR BORN DURING THIS MARRIAGE ARE NOT THE ISSUE OF THIS MARRIAGE, LIST THESE CHILDREN BELOW.			
25b. FULL NAME OF CHILD AS IT APPEARS ON BIRTH CERTIFICATE. These children are not the issue of this marriage.		25c. DATE OF BIRTH (Mo., Day, Yr.)	25d. STATE OF BIRTH (If not in U.S.A., name country)
1.	First Middle Last	25e. COUNTY OF BIRTH	25f. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER
2.			
3.			
4.			

(Social security numbers are collected for child support enforcement purposes.)

