

WEDDINGS PERFORMED BY JUDGES IN POLK COUNTY

(Updated February 2025)

There are two ways a wedding can be performed by a Polk County Judge.

1) The first option is to have a judge who is on duty simply execute the paperwork for the marriage without a ceremony. If you want to have the paperwork signed without a ceremony, you should go to the **1st Floor Information Booth** at the Polk County Historic Courthouse, 500 Mulberry Street between the hours of **2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday - Friday**. You should have your two (2) witnesses with you. You will be directed to a judge once one is available. **There may be a considerable wait depending on the judges' schedule and there is no guarantee that you will be seen on the day you come to the courthouse.** There is no charge for this service. If you have questions call 515-561-5808.

2) Alternatively, if you wish to have a specific judge perform a wedding ceremony (either at or away from the courthouse), that can be arranged with that judge individually. If you wish to use a specific judge, please refer to the list of judges (see below) who perform ceremonies. For ALL weddings before a specific judge, whether at the courthouse or elsewhere, **YOU MUST CONTACT THE JUDGE IN ADVANCE TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT.**

COURTHOUSE WEDDING CEREMONIES WITH SPECIFIC JUDGES ARE SCHEDULED ONLY DURING THESE HOURS:

Monday – Friday

1:00 p.m. – 1:15p.m.

4:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

All weddings performed during regular judicial working hours are to take place at the Polk County Historic Courthouse, 500 Mulberry St., Des Moines, IA 50309. For weddings performed at a time other than the above judicial working hours and at a place other than a court facility, a judge or magistrate may charge a fee not to exceed \$200.00. Individual judges may charge different fees. Please inquire for actual costs when arranging a ceremony.

To apply for a marriage license, you will need to go to the Recorder's Office at the Polk County Administration Building, 111 Court Avenue, Room 245. Their business hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Both parties and one witness of legal age should be there to fill out the application. All three parties will need to have a photo ID or two other forms of identification with them. The fee for a marriage license is \$35.00. For additional information, you can contact the Polk County Recorder at 515-286-3781.

JUDGES/MAGISTRATES LOCATED AT THE POLK COUNTY COURTHOUSE

JUDGE/MAGISTRATE	LOCATION	CONTACT
DAVID NELMARK	Courthouse only	briana.stevens@iowacourts.gov
SCOTT ROSENBERG	Courthouse/Offsite	scott.rosenberg@iowacourts.gov
LAWRENCE MCLELLAN	Courthouse/Offsite	katarina.feld@iowacourts.gov
SUSAN COX	Offsite only	susan.cox@iowacourts.gov
KRISTEN FORMANEK	Offsite only	kristen.formanek@iowacourts.gov
BRENDAN GREINER	Offsite only	brendan.greiner@iowacourts.gov
ASHLEY STEWART	Offsite only	ashley.stewart@iowacourts.gov
BETH TIGGES	Offsite only	bethtigges@gmail.com
ROBB GOEDICKE	Offsite only	515-491-5283