Marriage Licence Modernization Program

Presented by:

Shrishma Davé, Manager, Legislative Services/Municipal Clerk

Emma McKerroll, Customer Service Assistant

Municipality of Port Hope



Agenda

What is the Marriage Licence Modernization Program (MLM)? Phased Implementation Port Hope's Experience Benefits and Considerations of Next Steps Demonstration

Program Overview

Objective: Modernize the marriage licence application process in Ontario.

Method: Transition from paper-based methods to a digital model.

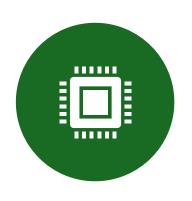
Launch and Expansion:

Launched in 2021 and expanded rapidly.

Phased Implementation



Phase 1: Launched electronic signatures and a licence preview tool in spring of 2021 to improve accuracy and user experience.



Phase 2: Rolled out a Minimum Viable Product (MVP) in 6 municipalities to test and refine core features.



Subsequent Rollouts: Expanded to 5 more municipalities (11 total) in 2023 and continue to make ongoing updates to enhance functionality. 67 municipalities are currently registered as of February 2025.



End Goal: Province-wide rollout to all interested municipalities as part of Ontario's digital modernization strategy.



Key Considerations for Municipalities

Voluntary Participation: Municipalities may join or withdraw at any time with 30 business days' notice.

No Provincial Funding: Municipalities must assess and resource participation internally.

No Cost to Join: However, any local setup or process adjustments are at the municipality's expense.

Same Licence Stock: The current provincial marriage licence paper stock remains in use.

Dual Access Required: Municipalities must continue to offer both online and in-person options for accessibility.

Benefits of Participation

For Municipalities	For the Public
Reduction in Paper and Manual Work	Convenient Online Process
Single Standardized Solution	Faster Turnaround
Faster processing	Clear Guidance
Fewer errors and complaints	Consistent experience
Province Managed System	Shorter Appointments

How It Works

Online Application: Couples begin the process through the provincial online portal – no paper forms needed.

Digital Document Submission: Applicants securely upload their identification and supporting documents online.

Electronic Signatures: Forms can be completed and signed digitally.

Municipal Transition: Participating municipalities use a central provincial portal, creating a consistent, streamlined experience.

Reduced In-Person Time: Applicants only visit the municipal office to finalize and receive their licence.

Citizen Portal

An online platform allowing the public to apply for a marriage licence and submit identification and supporting documents electronically.



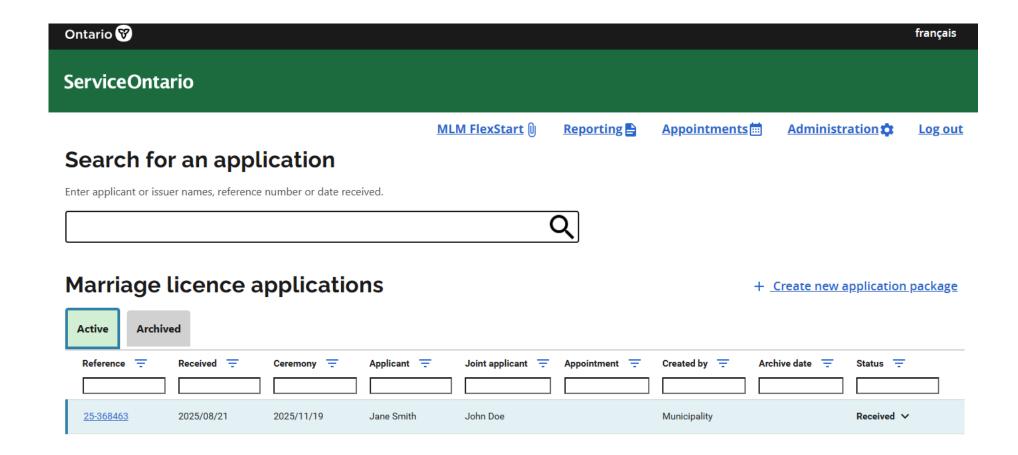
Online marriage licence application

Eligibility

Are you getting married in Ontario?	(required
Yes	
○ No	

Municipal Portal

A platform which enables municipalities to retrieve, review and process application packages alongside printing and communication capabilities.



Municipality of Port Hope – Pre MLM



Used fillable PDFs for marriage licence applications.



Appointments took 30–45 minutes due to manual in-office form completion.



Staff had to decipher handwriting and manually enter data, increasing risk of errors.



Data was re-entered into a legacy Access database – unreliable, often crashed.



Single-user limitation in database created workflow bottlenecks.



Transition to SharePoint caused compatibility issues with Access and historical PDFs.

Invitation to Participate in MLM-Phase 2

- 1. Invitation and Agreement
- 2. Information Requirements
- 3. Document Review
- 4. Onboarding Details
- 5. Non-Participation Protocol





Second Onboarding Survey



COMPLETING SURVEY



PROVINCIAL APPOINTMENT BOOKING SERVICES



FLEXIBILITY IN SETUP

Training Materials

MLM User Guide

Training Video

FlexStart Training Site (new)

Drop-In Q&A Sessions

Support Tool

Updating Municipal Websites

- Reviewed websites of other municipalities in the MLM Program to gather ideas and best practices
- Redesigned webpage to be clear, concise, and userfriendly
- Conducted an internal review to identify and remove process redundancies
- Developed procedures aligned with updated practice and reflected these changes on the website
- Collaborative effort between Legislative Services, Communications, and IT

Marriage

Home / Your Municipal Government / Licences and Permits / Marriages



In order to get married in the Province of Ontario, you must obtain a Marriage Licence. Marriage licences are valid for 90 days from the date of issue.

Apply for a marriage licence

To apply for a marriage licence, please complete a Marriage Licence Application.

Apply for a Marriage Licence

Once your marriage licence application has been submitted successfully, the Clerks Office at the Municipality of Port Hope will contact you to schedule an appointment via email or phone to pick up your marriage licence.

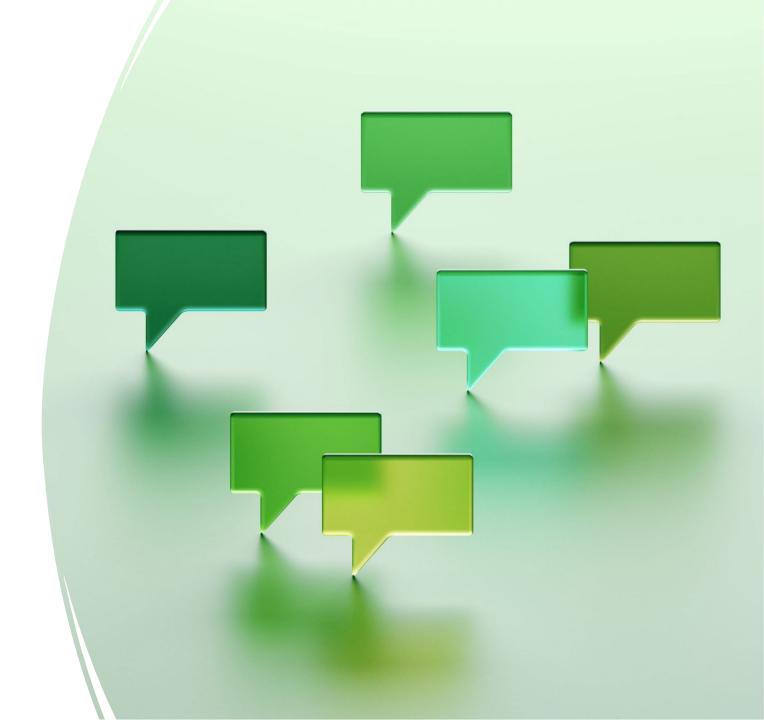
For questions about marriage licences please contact the Clerk's Office at 905-885-4544 ext. o or by email

Identification requirements Fees Divorce or annulment documentation requirements Minimum age requirements Changing your last name Marriage Ceremonies	/hat you need to complete your marriage licence	+
Divorce or annulment documentation requirements Minimum age requirements Changing your last name Marriage Ceremonies	entification requirements	+
Minimum age requirements Changing your last name Marriage Ceremonies	es	+
Changing your last name Marriage Ceremonies	vorce or annulment documentation requirements	+
Marriage Ceremonies	nimum age requirements	+
	nanging your last name	+
	arriage Ceremonies	+
Applying for your marriage certificate / Replacement of a lost, stolen, or damaged certificate	plying for your marriage certificate / Replacement of a lost, stolen, or damaged certificate	+

Please note: the Municipality of Port Hope continues to accept in-person applications. Please fill out the Marriage Licence Application Form and email us a copy to the the Clerk's office.

Communication Efforts/Municipal Promotion

The Province supplied municipalities with a Communication Resource which contained sample quotes, messaging, and social media graphics in order to enhance public outreach.







Examples Provided by the Province:

Option 1: ServiceOntario is making it easier for soon-to-be-married couples by offering marriage licence applications online in the Municipality of Port Hope! It's quick, easy & convenient!

Visit: https://www.porthope.ca/en/your-municipal-government/marriages.aspx

Option 2: Now available in the Municipality of Port Hope, couples can apply for a marriage licence using Service Ontario's online system. It's quick, easy & convenient!

Visit: https://www.porthope.ca/en/your-municipal-government/marriages.aspx

Option 3: Getting married in Ontario? The Municipality of Port Hope offers ServiceOntario's online marriage licence applications. It's quick, easy & convenient!

Get started here: https://www.porthope.ca/en/your-municipal-government/marriages.aspx



Sponsored Posts.



93.3 myFM Radio Interview.



Additional communication efforts around peak wedding season.

Planning to tie the knot in Ontario? You will need to get a Marriage Licence. In Port Hope, we've made it easier than ever. You can now fill out your marriage licence application online and book an appointment to pick it up. Fast, simple, and efficient! Check it out at porthope.ca/marriage



Brief Timeline

•	Municipal Clerk completed the MLM-Phase 2 Participation Survey and contacted the Province to express interest in joining the next rollout phase.
February 22, 2024	Official invitation to participate in MLM-Phase 2 was received from the Province. An onboarding questionnaire and

Received the Marriage Licence Modernization Phase 2 Participation Agreement.

Seconding onboarding survey was sent to gather information required for the backend.

information deck were also provided.

February 23, 2024

March 22, 2024

March 25, 2024

April 10, 2024

April 22, 2024

MLM Phase 2 User Guide and Training Video received, along with a notice that all staff accounts must be registered

by April 3, 2024.

Request received for the name and contact information for the Mayor to welcome them to the program.

Signed copy of the Marriage Licence Modernization Phase 2 Participation Agreement received from the Province. April 11, 2024

Notification received confirming successful setup of the municipality and all associated staff accounts in MLM

Phase 2.

April 29, 2024

Final survey received regarding the municipality's readiness and progress in preparation for the go-live date.

Communication resource document was received providing quotes, messaging and social media graphics to

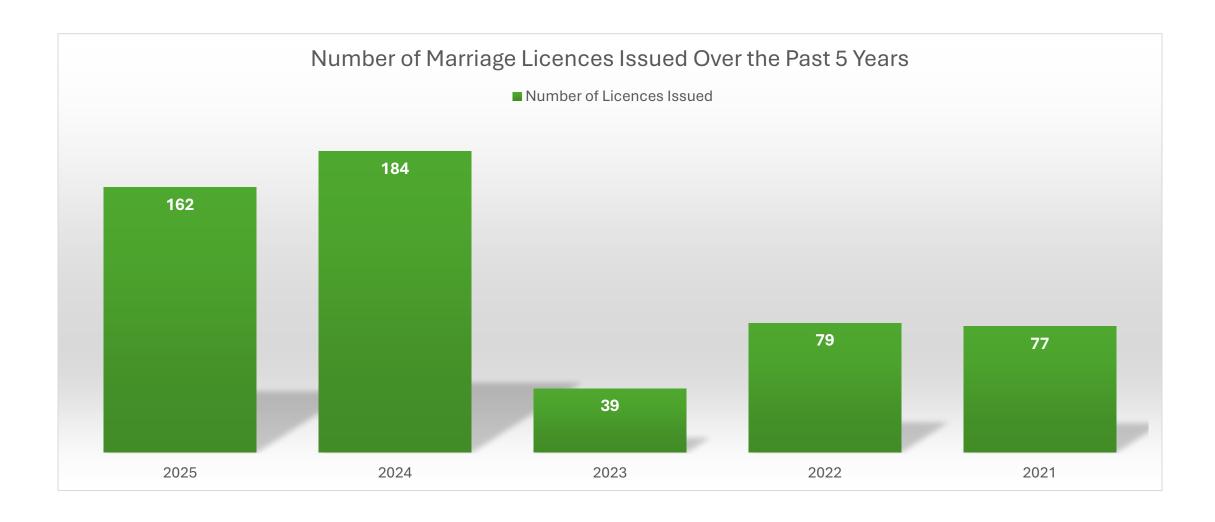
May 1, 2024 consider when updating the municipalities websites or social media accounts.

May 13, 2024 Go-Live Date!

Where are we now?

- Lead Time: Licence processing reduced from 45 minutes → under 5 minutes
- Operational Improvements: Eliminated manual data entry → fewer errors
- Staff & Applicant Benefits: Smoother, faster process → better service for applicants
- Overall Impact: Efficient, accurate, and user-friendly process

Municipality of Port Hope Statistics

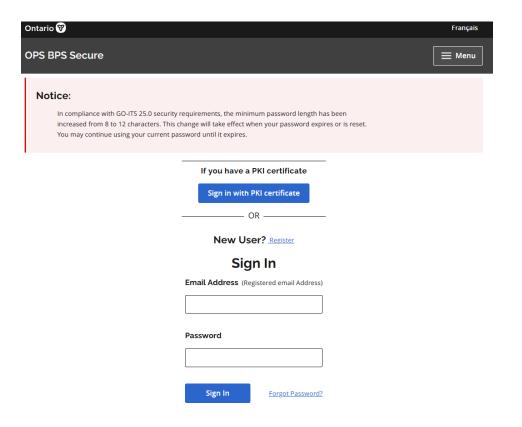




Marriage licence issuance process



Accessing the MLM Service



- Authorized municipal staff can access the service via a Ministry-provided hyperlink.
- Log in using staff registered email and predetermined password.



Municipal Portal for Online Marriage Licence Applications

Welcome to the municipal portal for issuing marriage licences. Please log in to access the online marriage licence application and management system.

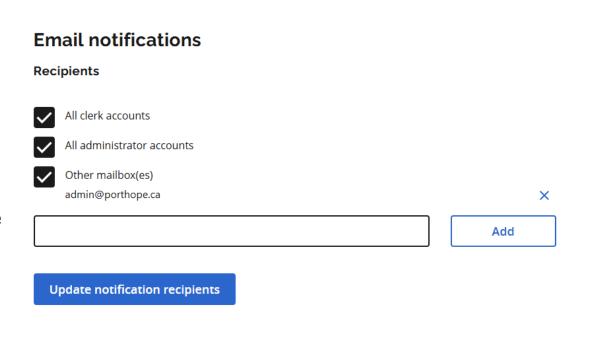
Already Registered?

If you are already registered to use the service, please log in using your credentials to access the portal.

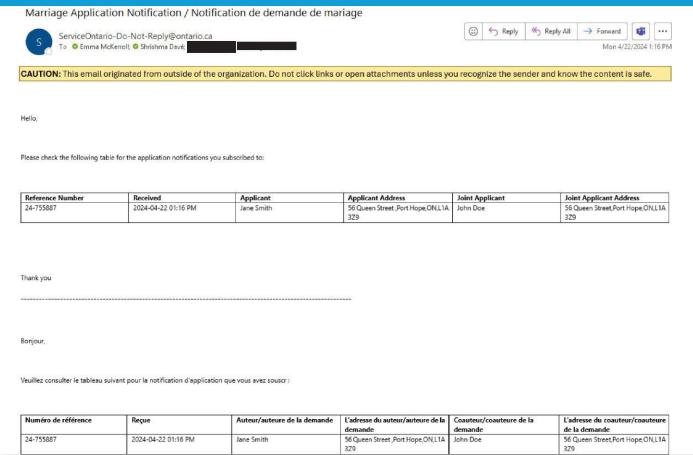
Login

New Marriage Licence Submission

- Municipalities can set email notification preferences via the Administration tab.
- Notifications may be sent to clerk accounts, administrator accounts, or other designated inboxes.
- Frequency and recipients are fully customizable by each municipality.



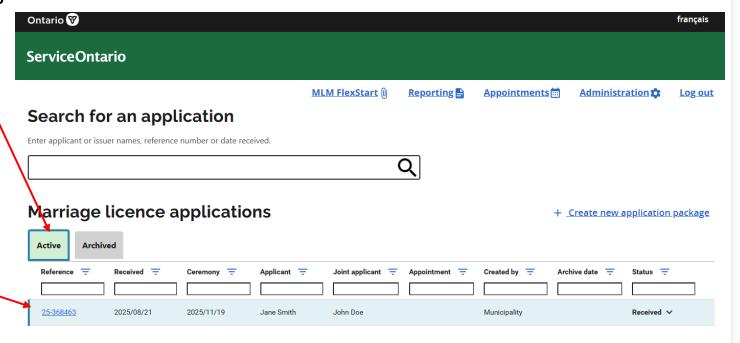
New Marriage Licence Submission - continued



- New submissions are sent from: ServiceOntario-Do-Not-Reply@ontario.ca
- Notification emails include:
 - Reference Number
 - Date Received
 - Applicant Name & Address
 - Joint Applicant Name & Address

MLM DASHBOARD

- Upon login, users are directed to the Active Dashboard, displaying application packages at various stages of processing.
- Other key components of the program are displayed at the top of the screen.
- To review an application in detail, users can select the reference number of the corresponding marriage licence application.



Reviewing **Application Packages**

- Selecting the reference number allows staff to review all applicantsubmitted information.
- A range of administrative functions is also available within this section of the program.

 Back to dashboard Cancel application

Marriage licence application 25-368463

Edit application

Appointment

ownload (Dishupporting docume



You are currently in view mode and are unable to make edits to this application. To edit content within this

application, relect the Edit application button

Received 2025/00/21 Modified 2025/00/22

Created by Municipality Notes

History

Viewable until

2026/08/21

Licence information

Issued by (required)

Issued to (required)

Issued date (required)

Licence number (required)

Marriage details

intended place of marriage

PORT HOPE

County, district, or region Northumbedand

intended date of marriage

2025-11-19

Are both applicants registered or entitled to be registered under Canada's Indian Act)

Applicant

Personal details

Jane Anne Smith Marital status

Never married, No annulment of marriage

Date of birth 1905-00-00

Age on the date of licence issued

Province of birth ONTARIO

Country of birth CANADA

Contact information

Applicant's present address or mailing address

56 Oween Street

Joint applicant (Partner / Intended Spouse)

Personal details

John William Doe

Marital status

Never married. No annulment of marriage

Age on the date of licence issued

Province of birth ONTARIO Country of birth

Contact information

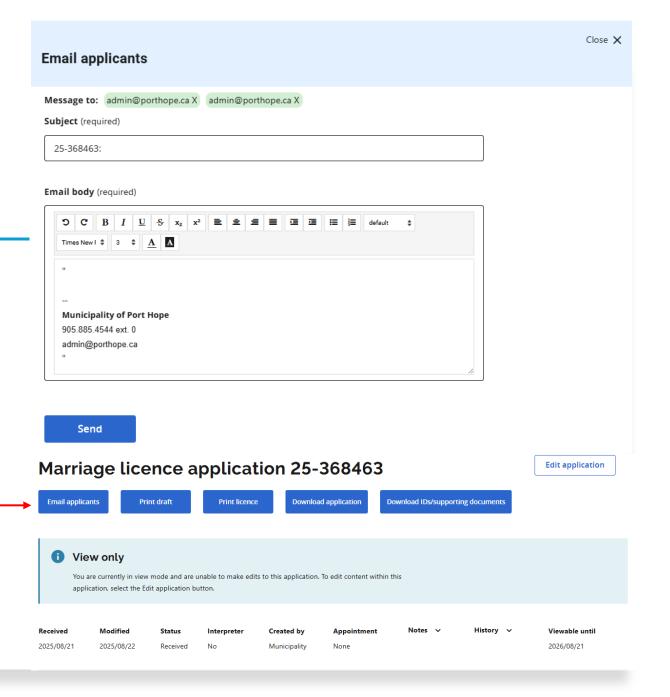
Applicant's present address or mailing address

56 Oween Street

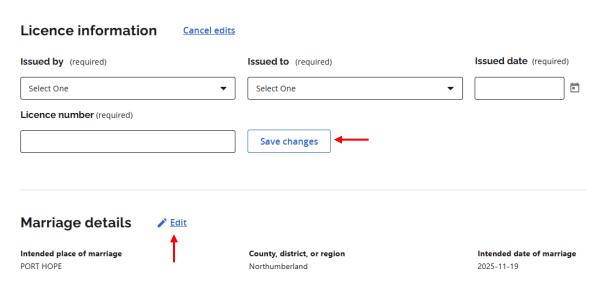
CANADA

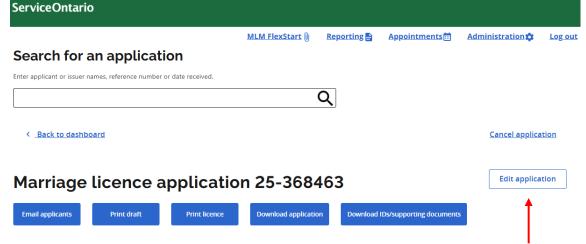
Emailing Applicants

- One-way email notifications can be sent to applicants to provide reminders or personalized messages.
- By selecting the blue 'Email Applicants' button, staff can select who to send reminder/personalized messages to, input a subject line, and edit the body of the email.



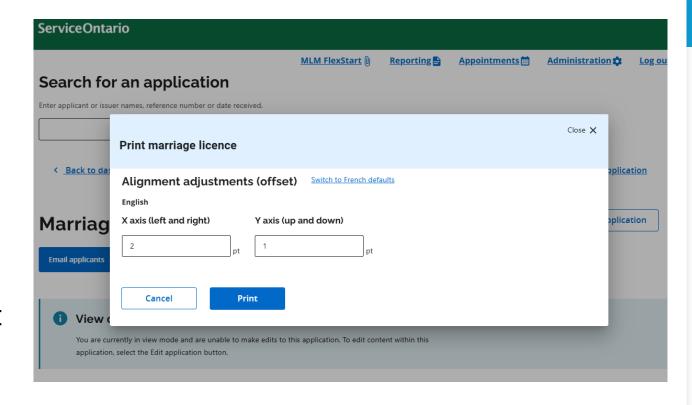
Editing Applications





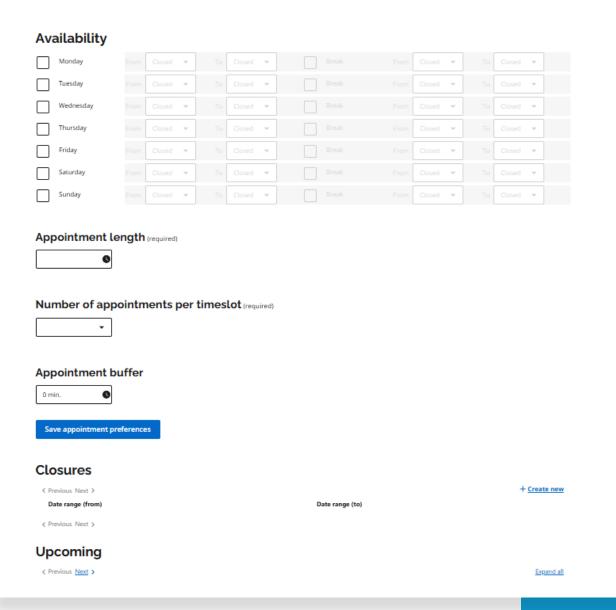
Printing Marriage Licences

- Verify information and enter licence details.
- Select 'Print Licence' to print directly from the system.
- Complete alignment adjustments before printing.
- Use sample stock for alignment testing.



Appointment Booking Tool

- Enables municipalities to schedule appointments directly in the system.
- Staff can set availability, breaks, appointment duration, and buffer times.
- Allows scheduling of office closures and appointments per time slot
- Provides a two-week view of upcoming appointments.



Record Retention and Deletion Schedules

- Primary Storage Platform: MLM-Phase 2 serves as the main platform for storing marriage licence applications, including IDs and supporting documents.
- Retention Schedule: Application data remains accessible for one year after issuance. Cancelled applications are also kept for one year before being permanently deleted.
- **Exclusions**: Marriage licences and payment receipts are not stored within the system.



Reporting Tool

2.5	•		-
Status	Year	Month	Count
Municipality of Port Hope			
Archived	2025	July	31
Cancelled	2025	July	2
Archived	2025	June	29
Archived	2025	May	13
Cancelled	2025	May	1
Archived	2025	April	19
Cancelled	2025	April	1
Archived	2025	March	11
Cancelled	2025	March	3
Archived	2025	February	9
Archived	2025	January	10
Cancelled	2025	January	1
Totals for all offices			
Status	Year	Month	Count
Issued	All	All	0
Cancelled	All	All	8
Archived	All	All	122

Reporting Tool - continued

Reference	Received	Issue date									Licence Number 💌	Issuer	Status
25-368463	11-Aug-25		11-Aug-26	Jane Anne Smith	14 56 Queen Street, Port Hope, L1A 329, ONTARIO, CANADA	14 56 Queen Street, Port Hope, L1A 329, ONTARIO, CANADA	John William Doe	14 56 Queen Street, Port Hope, L1A 3Z9, ONTARIO, CANADA	14 56 Queen Street, Port Hope, L1A 329, ONTARIO, CANADA	Municipality			Cancelled
25-368464	11-Aug-25	14-Aug-25	11-Aug-26	Jane Anne Smith	14 56 Queen Street, Port Hope, L1A 329, ONTARIO, CANADA	14 56 Queen Street, Port Hope, L1A 329, ONTARIO, CANADA	John William Doe	14 56 Queen Street, Port Hope, L1A 329, ONTARIO, CANADA	14 56 Queen Street, Port Hope, L1A 329, ONTARIO, CANADA	Municipality	G060000	Emma McKerroll	Issued

Paper-based Application Process

- MLM-Phase 2 requires that all municipalities accept in-person applications to ensure accessible and inclusive services for all applicants.
- In-person applications can be manually entered into the system using the "create new application package" feature on the MLM dashboard

Create new application package Marriage details Intended place of marriage (required) Select One Intended date of marriage (required) Are both applicants registered or entitled to be registered under Canada's Indian Act? (required) () Yes O No Joint applicant (Partner / Intended Spouse) Applicant Personal details Personal details First name First name Middle name(s) Middle name(s) No middle name No middle name Current last name Current last name None of the above names are None of the above names are applicable because this applicant applicable because this applicant has a single name. has a single name. When was Applicant born? When was Applicant born? Was Applicant born in Canada? Was Applicant born in Canada?

Additional Tools -MLM FlexStart **Training Site**

Recently released in 2025 was MLM FlexStart, a central hub for training resources and support for the MLM program.

Ontario 😚

Microsoft 365

Search this site

Emma McKerroll

Share
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓
 ✓



MarriageLicence

Home Documents Drop In Schedule Recycle bin

A^N Immersive reader





Welcome to the Marriage Licence Modernization (MLM) FlexStart Training Site

This site is your central hub for everything related to the Online Marriage Licence Application Service. Whether you're an administrator setting up your portal or a clerk preparing to process applications, you'll find what you need to launch and manage the service with confidence.

The MLM FlexStart Toolkit provides:

- · Step-by-step onboarding support
- · Topic-based training materials for both clerks and administrators
- Helpful templates and resources

Related:

Learn More About Marriage Licence Modernization

List of Participating Municipalities

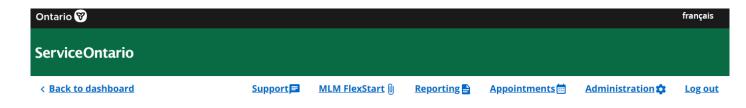
Onboarding Frequently Asked

Questions

Cimplified Training for Active

Support Tool

- Added in 2025 to the main dashboard.
- Replaces previous Word form and email reporting process.
- Simplifies reporting of technical issues.
- Enables easier tracking of issue status.



Support

Issue Reporting Form

This form is intended for municipalities to report issues related to the online marriage licence application portal as part of the Marriage Licence Modernization (MLM) initiative. For non-urgent questions, training-related clarifications, or general how-to support, please refer to the resources available on the MLM FlexStart Training SharePoint site. This site includes training materials, FAQs, common issues, and a feedback form to help us continuously improve content based on your input. If your inquiry is related to training content or guidance, please use the feedback form on the training site rather than submitting it here. To help us resolve technical issues efficiently, please answer all questions as completely and accurately as possible.

Contextual information

What service is the issue related to? (required)

Municipal Online Marriage Licence Porta
Municipal Portal Login
MLM FlexStart SharePoint Site Access

Overall Benefits of the Marriage Licence Modernization Program











GREATER PROCESS EFFICIENCY AND TIME SAVINGS ERROR REDUCTION THROUGH DIGITAL ENTRY IMPROVED ACCESSIBILITY FOR APPLICANTS REDUCED REWORK AND EXTRA PROCESSING

EMPOWERED AND ACCOUNTABLE APPLICANTS





PROACTIVE ERROR IDENTIFICATION

STREAMLINED APPOINTMENT SCHEDULING

Thank you for listening! Are there any questions?