



County Administration South
601 N. Ross Street, Santa Ana, CA 92701 | (714) 834-2500

WELCOME

Newsletter - January 2022

Thank you for your interest in the Orange County Clerk-Recorder Department's newsletter. We will be bringing you periodic updates on the latest news, information and events affecting the department. I am honored and privileged to serve as your County Clerk-Recorder. Please contact my office at (714) 834-2500 or visit us at OCRecorder.com for more information about the department and the services provided to the public.

Sincerely,

*Hugh Nguyen
County Clerk-Recorder*

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ORANGE COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER

CALL CENTER

**WE ARE HERE TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS
MONDAY TO FRIDAY: 8 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.**

(714) 834 - 2500



CLERK-RECORDER TO OFFER EXTENDED VALENTINE'S DAY HOURS

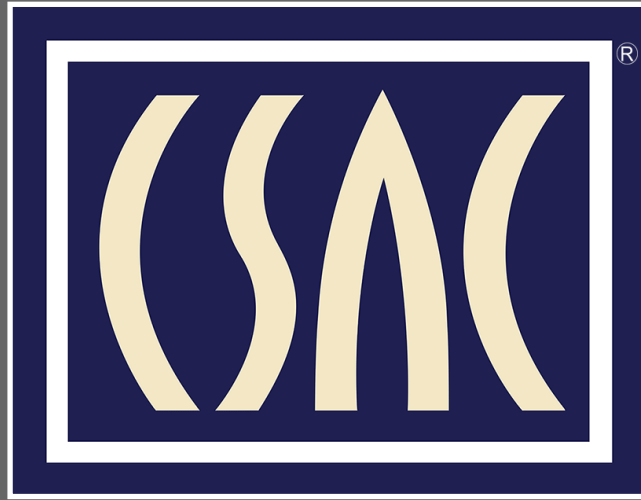
For those looking to tie the knot on the most romantic day of the year, we are here to help you! This upcoming Valentine's Day, Orange County Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen will be offering extended hours at his offices in Anaheim, Laguna Hills and at the Old County Courthouse in Santa Ana. Instead of its normal closing hours, the department will be keeping its marriage services units open until 5:00 p.m. Due to high demand, appointments are highly recommended. Walk-ins are welcomed and will be served on a first come, first served basis; however, couples must complete an application online prior to visiting any of the offices. To complete an application and/or to make an appointment, please visit the following link: <https://www.ocrecorder.com/services/marriage-services>.

“Valentine's Day is always one of the busiest and happiest days of the year for the department, so we try to make it easier and more convenient for couples, especially for those who must work on this special day,” said Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen.

The department will be implementing strict social distancing guidelines as well as the following restrictions to ensure the safety of the couples and staff:

- Couples must complete their marriage application online prior to visiting any of our offices.
- Ceremony rooms are currently closed. All marriage ceremonies will be performed at the service desk/counter where the marriage license is issued.
- For couples looking to obtain a marriage license, only the couple can be present. No guests allowed.
- For couples looking to obtain a public marriage license and have a ceremony performed, only the couple and one witness may be present. No guests allowed.
- For couples looking to obtain a confidential marriage license and have a ceremony, only the couple can be present. No guests allowed.
- Couples must present valid government issued photo identification at their appointment.
- Payment can be made by cash, credit/debit card, check, cashier's check, and/or money order. Make checks and money orders payable to the Orange County Clerk-Recorder.

Another reason to join us on this special day, the department has the lowest costs for a marriage license and a marriage ceremony in the state. In Orange County, couples can obtain a public marriage license for \$61 and a confidential marriage license for \$66. A civil marriage ceremony can be performed for an additional \$28.



CLERK-RECORDER DEPARTMENT EARNS CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES' PRESTIGIOUS INNOVATION AWARD FOR HITCHED AT HONDA CENTER

Orange County Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen is proud to announce that his department is the recipient of the 2021 Innovation Award for an urban county from the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) for its Hitched at Honda Center program. The award is the most prestigious presented by CSAC and is awarded to programs deemed the most innovative and effective entries received in 2021. This year CSAC received a record setting 433 entries, the most in the history of the program.

"This award is a great accomplishment for the department," Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen said. "We have worked so hard during this pandemic to keep offering essential marriage services to the public. Receiving this prestigious award validates our efforts. It tells me we did something good. Marriage services are crucial, and I am so proud that we could offer a safe service option to all residents during the pandemic. I would like to thank my staff for all their hard work and for making this possible."

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Orange County Clerk-Recorder Department partnered with Honda Center in Anaheim to resume essential marriage services by using Honda Center's box office booths. The program far exceeded expectations and helped deliver services in numbers never seen before, even during a year fraught with a global pandemic. During Hitched at Honda Center, the department issued 16,838 marriage licenses and performed 8,252 marriage ceremonies in a nine month span; a 25% increase in marriage services from the previous year. The program not only served Orange County, but all nearby counties, whose offices were closed to the public at the time, and even couples from other states and countries.

This is the first time in County history in which the Clerk-Recorder Department has received awards from both NACo and CSAC in the same year.

To learn more about the Orange County Clerk-Recorder Department or about the services offered by the department, please visit [OCRecorder.com](https://ocrecorder.com).

[OCRecorder.com](https://ocrecorder.com)



ORANGE COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER TO OFFER VIRTUAL MARRIAGE SERVICES

Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen will be offering virtual marriage services to the public by appointment only effective January 18, 2022. The department will offer virtual marriage appointments only from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, and on a first come, first served basis. Appointments will be limited so schedule your appointment soon! To complete a marriage license application and to make an appointment, couples must visit the department's online appointment system at https://cr.ocgov.com/portal_OC/emarriagescheduler/. For more information, please call the department's information line at (714) 834-2500 or visit OCRecorder.com.

"I am determined to continue serving everyone who needs our services," said Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen. "It gives me great pleasure to be able to serve couples who need to take extra precautions during these times of uncertainty."

To obtain virtual marriage services, the following requirements apply:

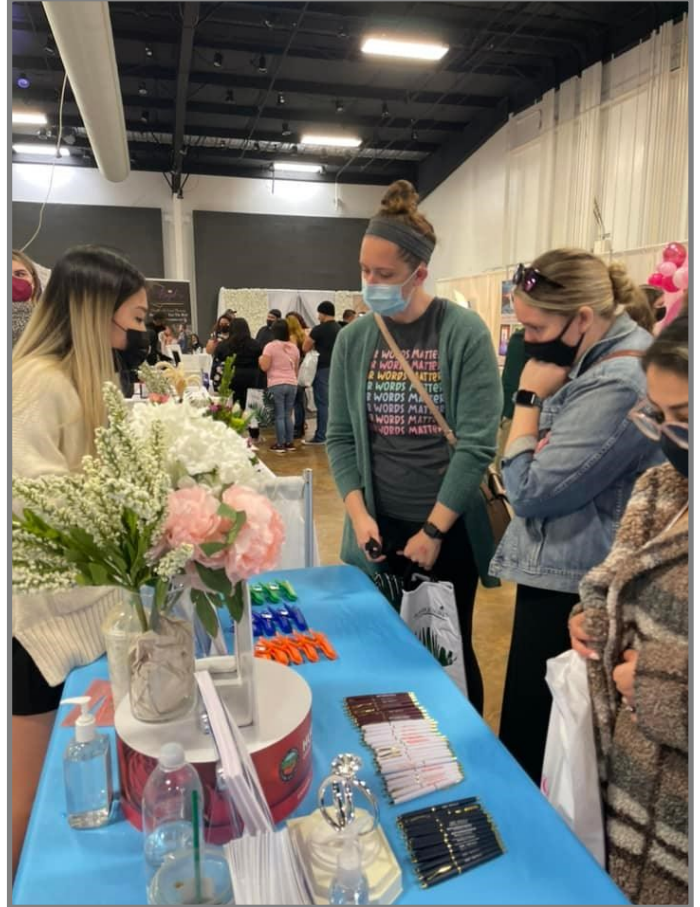
- The couple must appear together on the same video call and be physically present in the State of California.
- The couple's electronic devices must have audio and videoconferencing capabilities.
- Couples must have **two** functional e-mail addresses before starting the process.
- The parties to the marriage license shall have the capability to transmit the marriage license via e-mail or other electronic means to the person solemnizing the marriage on the day of their appointment.
- Each person must present one form of valid non-expired, government issued photo identification such as a driver's license or a passport.
- If divorced within the last 90 days, please provide a copy of the divorce decree.
- If widowed within the last 90 days, please provide a certified copy of the death certificate.
- Couples are not required to change their name(s). However, if the couple decides to change their name(s), they must do so at the time of signing the marriage license. Once the license is signed only a court order can change the name(s).
- Couples must purchase a marriage license **and** have a marriage ceremony performed during their appointment.
- No witnesses are required.

For more detailed information, please call the department's information line at (714) 834-2500 or visit OCRecorder.com. The information line is available Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. except holidays.

OCRecorder.com

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

During the month of January:



On January 9, my team attended the Bride World Expo held at OC Fair and Event Center. This expo was a great way for couples to learn about the marriage process in the new year. Our expert staff answered questions and provided information about marriage licenses and ceremonies.



AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS



Orange County Clerk-Recorder *Employee of the Month*



Congratulations!
Nisha Sharaschandra

Dedicated to Providing Excellent Customer Service

Each month we recognize an employee who goes above and beyond their normal duties and offers excellent service to our customers. The Employee of the Month receives a certificate of recognition, has their name placed on a recognition plaque and may dress casual during their month of recognition.

It gives me great pleasure to announce Nisha Sharaschandra as Employee of the Month for January.

Since joining the department this past November, Nisha has become an essential member to the Finance Unit. She is currently tasked with reconciling the daily banknote papers used by Clerk Operations and with processing the department payroll on a biweekly basis. She has learned quickly and in just two months has been able to help our finance team complete pending items and work. Nisha is very eager to learn new tasks and is always willing to take on new challenges. We appreciate all the effort she has put into learning her new assignments as well as those of her coworkers. She has proven to be a great team player.

Due to staffing challenges faced by the Finance Unit, Nisha has been very accommodating and agreed to change her schedule to fit the needs of the department. She is always willing to help when needed and where needed without hesitation. She has even taken the time to help troubleshoot issues with Excel and the new Payroll timekeeping system to name a few items. Nisha also took on the task of successfully training a new member of the team. She has demonstrated proficiency, knowledge, and confidence in completing her tasks in a short amount of time and with minimal supervision. We benefit from Nisha's skills and perspective and are pleased to see her become an asset to the department!

Please join me in congratulating Nisha on her achievement!

OCRecorder.com

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS



Thank you Chairman Andrew Do and the Board of Supervisors for presenting a resolution to my department on January 18 recognizing our accomplishment of winning the 2021 California State Association of Counties Innovation Award for an urban county. I would like to thank my staff for making this accomplishment possible.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS



Thank you to NBC4 for covering our virtual marriages program and the services we offer to couples seeking marriage services during the pandemic. Our virtual marriages program is open to all couples and helps provide an alternative method of obtaining service that is safe and convenient. To watch NBC's "Love is in the Air...and Online" news report, please visit the following link: <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/on-air/love-is-in-the-air-and-online/2799807/>.

OCRecorder.com

CUSTOMERS ARE SAYING...

Our North County branch office in Anaheim received the following reviews. Thank you for your commitment to courteous service!

Jane Swanson

★★★★★ 4 weeks ago

Clean office . Friendly staff. So much more efficient in this Anaheim location than when I went a few years back to down town Santa Ana. Service is great. Staff are welcoming and helpful. I spent under 20 minutes getting my copies of certificates. And that was with a down system! Quick shout out to their IT for getting it up and running quickly. And more so the staff for letting people know as they walked in that system was down instead of looking around wondering what's going on. No typical DMV /government attitude here. Great job guys!

★★★★★ 1/21/2022

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Went to the OC Clerk-Recorder Anaheim office to pick up some records. This office is the cleanest county office I have ever seen anywhere --from 13 years having worked at the county. The staff were incredibly pleasant, hospitable and knowledgeable. I was in and out within 10 minutes.

★★★★★ 1/13/22

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I'm in wedding mode. Needed to get our marriage license. This staff here was pleasant and efficient. You need to fill out the paper work prior to your arrival or make An appointment for a seamless experience. We went on Monday afternoon, there was no line, and plenty of street parking. Glad I came to this office.

JANUARY IN O.C. HISTORY



Workers in the Placentia Orange Growers' citrus packing house, Fullerton, 1910
(Courtesy of the OC Archives)

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|----------------------|---|
| Jan. 5, 1951 | Voters approved the formation of the Orange County Municipal Water District by a ratio of twelve to one. |
| Jan. 17, 1875 | The first passenger train arrived in Anaheim, marking a turning point in Orange County's economy. |
| Jan. 19, 1916 | During a major storm, the Santa Ana River changed course, cutting a path directly to the sea rather than emptying into Newport Bay. |
| Jan. 21, 1770 | On their return trip, the Portola Expedition left Orange County, entering San Diego County. |
| Jan. 22, 1904 | Fullerton voted to incorporate as a city. The measure passed 185 to 44. A similar effort in 1901 had met with failure. |

Historical facts provided by Assistant Archivist Chris Jepsen.

Photo: Courtesy of the Orange County Archives.

Courtesy of the Orange County Archives, a function under the Office of Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen.

OCArchives.com

OUT AND ABOUT



One of my staff took this photo of Yosemite Valley on a recent trip.

Visit our webpage at: OCRecorder.com

For more information about
the Orange County Archives visit:
OCArchives.com

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