

State Marriage Handbooks (USA)

Several states have published marriage handbooks as a free public resource. Some of these are well done while others are lacking in scope, content, and/or time-tested values.

This list is provided as a resource to our readers, and is not specifically endorsed by us. Feel free to use these as you see fit since they were developed through public financing and are in the public domain.

Alabama

aces.edu/pubs/docs/H/HE-0829/HE-0829.pdf

The handbook includes information about money, balancing work and family, responsibilities in the home, children, and in-laws. The resource also addresses substance abuse, gambling, mental health problems, sexual infidelity, and other issues that hurt relationships.

Colorado

smartmarriages.org/colorado.handbook.html

Apparently no longer being produced and distributed, this handbook included information on communication skills, dealing with conflict, and understanding expectations.

Florida

fclerks.com/PDF/2000_2001_pdfs/7-99_VERSION_Family_Law_Handbook.pdf

The *Family/Marriage Law Handbook* is required by the State of Florida to be read by all marriage license applicants before the marriage license is issued.

Louisiana

dss.state.la.us/assets/docs/searchable/OFS/GuideMarriageChild/MarriageMatters.pdf

This graphically appealing handbook offers creative pop quiz exercises for couples. It includes information about handling conflict and techniques for developing listening skills.

Oklahoma

marriageok.net/MarriageOKMagazine.pdf

This handbook has extensive information about marriage license requirements, benefits of a healthy marriage, special issues with marrying young, conflict resolution, and parenting skills.

Texas

oag.state.tx.us/AG_Publications/pdfs/marriage.pdf

This handbook offers a workbook style interaction with couples and addresses personality differences, conflict issues, communication skills, children, money, and faith issues.

Utah

extension.usu.edu/files/publications/publication/Marriage_2007.pdf

Based on the Alabama handbook as a model, this resource provides basic tips for managing relational expectations, discussing shared goals, and handling issues related to finances, parenting, in-laws, and remarriage.

If your state has a marriage handbook, let us know and we will consider adding it to our list.