

*This is the most complete, reliable and **straight-to-the-point** source of information on **What documents** you need for a civil wedding in the Dominican Republic, **How and Where** to get them, and **their legalization process**; compiled from the website of the DR's embassy in Canada, the United States and other sources. If you continue beyond this point is because you accept the **Waiver**.*

## 1. DOCUMENTS REQUIRED BY CITIZENS AND PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF CANADA

### a. If never married before:

- i) **BIRTH CERTIFICATE (Translated)**: Long form, original or certified copy \*
- ii) **Affidavit of Single Marital Status (Translated)**. I will provide the template.
- iii) **Valid passport**: A copy of the two main pages for step 2c. Your marriage will be formalized in the name appearing on it, which must match your name on your birth certificate and other documents. (**No Spanish translation required**).
- iv) **Tourist Card**: Usually included on your vacation package, or you can purchase at the airport of entry in the DR. It is valid for 30 days.

### b. If previously married:

The previously married must also produce the original or certified copy of the following:

- i) **Divorce Certificate or Court Ruling (Translated)**; original or certified copy \*or
- ii) **Death Certificate of Spouse (Translated)** original or certified copy \*.

**Note**: Divorced or widowed brides can not marry in the DR until ten months after the dissolution of previous marriage.

\* Certified copies for are provided with the translation at no additional cost.

### c. Optional Prenuptial Agreement (Optional):

Dominican rules applicable to matrimonial contracts (ownership and separation of equity, paternal rights and other matters) are enforceable among foreign couples (Canadian, US, etc.) when back in their own countries. (**See details**).

## 2. OFFICIAL SPANISH TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENTS

No foreign language document is valid in the Dominican Republic unless it has been:

- a. **Officially translated** by a certified translator, professionally typewritten, without corrections or erasures and certified by a Notary. Contact Victor toll free: 1-888-847-8906 or [e-mail clicking here](#).
- b. **Apostilled by local Authority**
  - i) **Canada**: The certification must be by a Notary Public (not just by a Commissioner to take oaths or certify signatures), and the Notary's signature must be authenticated by the Provincial Official Document Services (takes 1 day and a fee of \$32+), or by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ottawa (no fee, but takes up to 1+ month). This is on you in the **DIY** option (3c), but included with the translation in the **SMAT** option (3b).
  - ii) **USA**: Authentication of the documents and of the Notary's signature by the nearest County or Court Clerk. This is on you.
- c. **Legalized by a Dominican Consulate**

Get an appointment with the nearest Dominican Consulate to take the package of apostilled documents (see 2b) with copy of the two main pages of your passport and your payment in the form of cash or money order to the Consulate of the Dominican

Republic (no credit/debit cards accepted). **Note:** the fee per document with its translation is US\$ 100.00 (even in Canada). Return next day for pickup.

**Warning:** *Don't be surprised by some misinformation saying that, for translations to be valid in DR, they must be done only by the consulate or certain "appointed" persons/agencies. Also beware of allegations from some unscrupulous hotels/resorts/operators that the translations may or must be done in the DR to charge you outrageous fees once you are there without options; besides the fact that, to be valid in the DR, the documents and their translations must be legalized in Canada by the Dominican Consulate and by Canadian Authorities.*

### 3. RED TAPE ALTERNATIVES

#### a. The Do It Yourself option

Victor will provide you with translation of the documents certified by a Notary Public and you take care of steps 2a, 2b and 2c.

#### b. The Save Money, Aggravation and Time option

In addition to translating your documents, Victor can take care of the whole legalization processes for you in a more cost-effective way, with a total turnaround of +/-10 days, (including translation and mailing time). In this case the Canadian government apostile fees are included in the price but not the Dominican Consular fees. [Click here for quote.](#)

### 4. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR A WEDDING IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

- a. Bring all your original documents to the DR, even if you are bringing certified copies.
- b. You might need 2 or 4 witnesses (over 18 years) at the ceremony (the hotel may provide them if necessary, for a fee).
- c. For information religious weddings, ask the corresponding local church officials.
- d. **Prenuptial agreement:** The Dominican rules will govern the matrimonial contract, even among foreign couples and are enforceable in their countries (Canada, US, etc.); so you might want to supersede that with a prenuptial agreement. When the spouse is from the DR, the preup must be drawn in English in Canada/US and translated into Spanish for both to sign the English and Spanish versions in front of a Notary Public in the DR and in Canada or the US, whichever the case may be.

### 5. OFFICIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF YOUR SPANISH MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE

Back from your trip, you need to register your marriage in Canada (US) by taking your Spanish Dominican marriage certificate (with the certified English translation that I provide) to the Offices of Vital Statistics, Social Insurance, Driver's License, Passport, etc. to update your marital status and change of name (the latter is optional). [Click here for quote.](#)

**Warning:** *Regardless of what you might have heard, even if it is from the travel agency or the Dominican Consulate, there is no need for the Dominican Consulate to intervene in the translation nor in a needless validation (legalization, certification) of your Dominican marriage certificate, that will cost you US\$100.00 on top of the translation cost.*

### 6. SPONSORING PERMANENT RESIDENCE OF DOMINICAN SPOUSE IN CANADA

Marriage to a Dominican citizen does not guarantee your spouse's immediate access to Canada or the US residence. You must file a sponsorship application accompanied by the following documents with their certified English translation. *Note:* This information is for Canada, and although there may be certain similarities; it is strongly suggested that you verify it with US Immigration authorities.

- a. To sponsor a Dominican spouse, send me the following documents for their official translation:
  - i) Dominican Marriage Certificate
  - ii) Spouse's Birth Certificate and
  - iii) Spouse's Certificate/Clearance of Criminal (Police) Records
- b. If sponsoring any minor child(ren) of the spouse, also send me:
  - i) The child(ren)'s Birth Certificate(s) and
  - ii) Notarized consent of the other parent to bring the child(ren) to Canada (or the US).
- c. In Canada, send your sponsorship application to Citizen & Immigration Canada (CIC) with the translated documents. No need for further legalizations because I am certified translator by CIC. No need to retain the services of a lawyer at this stage either. Allow 10 months for the decision.
- d. **Warning:** There is a considerable chance for the application to be denied on the basis that the wedding was fraudulent, not in good faith; specially (but not exclusively) if there is a considerable age difference between the spouses. [See news release.](#)
- e. In case of a denial, you must initiate an appeal process that takes many, many months if not 1+ years. It is recommendable that you retain the services of a lawyer at this stage of the process.

To be prepared for the event of an appeal, you must be able to produce documented proof that the marriage was not in bad faith and still is in good standing; (i.e. telephone bills [not calling cards] for frequent long distance calls, airline tickets and hotel invoices for trips, correspondence with dated postal seals, proof of support by remittance of money, etc).

## 7. WAIVER

The information provided to you here or verbally or in any other way, is in good faith and believed to be true and accurate to the best of my knowledge; however there will be no responsibility or liability of any kind for the results of the decisions you make based on this information. It is your responsibility to confirm the information with the nearest D.R. Consulate or Embassy, the Office of the Civil Registry of the locality and/or the resort/hotel where the wedding will take place and the travel agency arranging your trip. [Return to the top](#)

## 8. CANADIAN CERTIFICATES

### a. Birth Certificates

- [The short form](#) is the wallet-credit card-sized format containing your name, date of birth, number, birthplace, sex, date of registration and issue. [Requires Spanish translation.](#)
- [The long form](#) contains the same data as above plus data of the parents and other additional secondary information. [Requires Spanish translation.](#)

### b. How to obtain a Canadian Certificate of Birth, Marriage or Death

Most provinces allow you to get it over the internet, but a few won't. Get the information on how to obtain it, click on the bottom edge of the corresponding flag. [Spanish translation required](#)



[Alberta](#)



[British Columbia](#)



[Manitoba](#)



[New Brunswick](#)



[Newfoundland Labrador](#)



[NW Territories](#)



[Nova Scotia](#)



[Nunavut](#)



[Ontario](#)



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**d. How to obtain a Canadian Divorce Certificate**

Call the Central Registry of Divorce Proceedings in Ottawa (613)957-4519. This is a Canada-wide index of divorces begun after July 1968. Provide the names of the divorcing parties (including the wife's maiden name if known) and get the number of the Courthouse where the divorce took place, the file number and year; then contact the Clerk of that court and ask for your divorce certificate. [Spanish translation required](#)

**c. Affidavit or Statutory Declaration of Single Marital Status**

It must be drawn in English and signed by the marrying person in front of the certifying Notary Public before [officially translated](#). When I take care of your translations, I provide the English format for your Notary to just fill in the blanks. In Canada it is very important that the certifying person be a Notary Public, not just be a Commissioner to take oaths, and in the US be a Court Clerk.

Saturday, April 3, 2010 |   | [Subscriber Services](#)

## News | Canada

### Feds cracking down on immigration involving marriage

By **ELIZABETH THOMPSON**, PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

Last Updated: April 2, 2010 7:13pm

OTTAWA — The federal government is moving to crack down on those who use fraudulent or forced marriages to get into Canada.

Under proposed new regulations, published without fanfare in the Canada Gazette, it will be easier for immigration officials to refuse someone applying to immigrate to Canada if they believe they entered into a marriage in "bad faith."

The proposed new rules would also make it easier for officials to refuse adopted children if the adoption did not create a genuine parent-child relationship or was done to immigrate.

"Relationships of convenience take advantage of programs that are intended to help reunite bona fide families and are unfair towards immigrants who immigrate based on bona fide relationships," the immigration department wrote.

"Strengthening provisions to prevent individuals from entering Canada through bad faith relationships supports bona fide immigrants and serves the best interests of Canadians by enforcing a fair immigration system."

Under the current regulations, officials have to establish two things in order to refuse a candidate — that the marriage is not genuine, plus that it is designed to allow someone to immigrate to Canada.

However, officials say having to prove both elements has made it difficult to prevent people from using relationships of convenience to circumvent immigration rules.

Under the proposed regulations, officials would just have to establish one of the two elements.

"Even if it cannot be established that a relationship was not entered into primarily to attain an immigration benefit, it may still fail to be a genuine relationship at the time the decision is made by an immigration minister," the government wrote. "An important example would be a forced marriage, where true consent between the parties is lacking, perhaps as the result of the undue influence of an overbearing third party."

They also cite cases where the marriage has broken down but is used to enable immigration.

Determining the legitimacy of a marriage or an adoption is sometimes difficult, the government concedes.

"Immigration officers called upon to decide these matters face an exceedingly difficult task. They must proceed cautiously and carefully, ever aware of the need to facilitate family reunification while at the same time safeguarding the integrity of the immigration process."

The government said the proposal has provincial backing as well as the support of the Canadian Bar Association, despite its misgivings it could be unfair to people in arranged marriages.

Montreal immigration lawyer David Chalk questioned whether the changes were necessary and suggested it could result in officials making mistakes that can't be easily remedied.