

*This is the most complete, reliable and **straight-to-the-point** source of information on [What documents](#) you need for a wedding in Mexico, [How and Where](#) to get them, and their legalization process; compiled from the website of the Mexican 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 CANADIAN & US CITIZENS / PERMANENT RESIDENTS

a. If never married before:

- i) **Birth Certificate** (Original or certified copy*)
 - **Long form:** Is accepted in all Mexican states.
 - **Short form (Credit size):** Some Mexican states might accept it.
- ii) **Affidavit of Single Marital Status:** Required only by some Mexican states.
- iii) **Passport:** A copy of the two main pages must be available for step 3. Your marriage will be formalized in the name appearing on it, which must match to all your other documents.
- iv) **Visa:** No visa is required for Canadian or US citizens and some permanent residents to visit Mexico. However, because on July 14, 2009, Canada imposed visas to Mexican visitors; Mexico might do so at some point, but hasn't done so yet; therefore, confirm this issue when purchasing your airline tickets.

b. If previously married:

The previously married person must also produce one of the following documents:

- i) **Divorce Certificate or Court Ruling** (Original or certified copy*)
- ii) **Death Certificate of Spouse** (Original or certified copy*)

* The certified copies (from 1 a & 1b) are provided with the translation at no additional cost.

c. Prenuptial Agreement (optional):

The Mexican rules will govern your matrimonial contract, even among Canadian/US couples, and are enforceable in Canada and the US. ([Click here for more details](#))

2. OFFICIAL SPANISH TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENTS

No foreign language document is valid in Mexico unless it has been:

- a. **Officially translated** by a certified translator, professionally typewritten, without corrections or erasures. For the most convenient price and turnaround (1-2 days), deal directly with the translator. **Contact Victor toll free: 1-888-847-8906** [e-mail clicking here](#).

Warning: *Don't be surprised by some misinformation stating that for translations to be valid in Mexico they must be done only by certain translation agencies. This is not true. Also some unscrupulous hotel/resorts/operators allege that the must be done in Mexico to be valid there. This is not true either; it is a money grabbing attempt to charge outrageous fees once the you are there without options.*

b. Legalized (Apostilled) by local Government (Canadian/US)

- i) **Canada:** The Notary's signature must be authenticated by the Provincial Official Document Services or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ottawa. This is on you in the [DIY](#) option (3a), but included with the translation in the [SMAT](#) option (3b).
- ii) **USA:** Authentication of the documents and of the signature of the Notary's signature must be authenticated by the nearest County or Court Clerk. This is on you.

c. Legalized by a Mexican Consulate

Get an appointment with the nearest Mexican Consulate to take the package of apostilled documents (see 3) (10:00 am to 1:00 pm only) with your payment in cash or money order to the Mexican Consulate, no credit or debit cards are accepted. Return next day for pickup. Note: the fee varies the first day of every month, but is around CN\$40.00 per set of English-Spanish documents.

3. ALTERNATIVES FOR THE LEGALIZATIONS

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 2b and 2c.

b. The Save Money, Aggravation and Time option

In addition to the translation of your documents, Victor can take care of the whole Canadian (2.b.i) and Mexican (2c) legalization processes in a more cost-effective way for you, with a total lead time (including translation and mailing time) of +/-10 days. [Click here for quote.](#)

4. IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR A MEXICAN WEDDING

- a. E-mail or fax the documents (English and Spanish translation) legalized by the Mexican Consulate to your hotel/resort in Mexico as soon as you have them.
- b. Bring all your original documents to Mexico, even if you are bringing certified copies.
- c. A locally performed blood test is required in most Mexican states.
- d. Some Mexican States require that foreigners obtain a local marriage authorization (wedding license).
- e. Depending on the Mexican state, 2 or 4 witnesses (over 18 years) are required at the ceremony (hotel may provide them if necessary).
- f. Religious marriages, which have no legal implications in Mexico, require an additional ceremony. Information about requirements must be obtained from the corresponding local church officials.
- g. **Prenuptial agreement:** The Mexican rules will govern your matrimonial contract, even among Canadian/US couples, and are enforceable in Canada and the US; so you might want to supersede that with a prenuptial agreement. When the spouse is from Mexico, the prenup must be drawn in Canada/US in English and translated into Spanish so both will sign the English and Spanish versions in front of a Notary Public both in Canada/US and in Mexico.

5. OFFICIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF YOUR MEXICAN MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE

When you return with your Mexican marriage certificate or *Acta de Matrimonio* (in Spanish), I will provide you with its official certified English translation to update your marital status in Canada and United States, to change your name in the Social Insurance, driver's license, passport, incorporate your spouse to your employer's benefits plan, etc. [Click here for quote.](#)

6. SPONSORING PERMANENT RESIDENCE FOREIGN SPOUSE IN CANADA OR USA

Marriage to a Mexican citizen does not guarantee your spouse's immediate access to Canada or the US*, your sponsorship application must be accompanied by the following documents with a certified translation. NOTE: The information provided here is for Canada and may be similar to a certain point for the US, so it is strongly suggested that you verify it with US Immigration authorities.

- a. To sponsor a Mexican spouse, send me the following documents for their official translation:
 - i) Mexican Marriage Certificate
 - ii) Spouse's Mexican Birth Certificate and
 - iii) Spouse's Mexican Certificate of Criminal Records Clearance
- b. If sponsoring any minor child(ren) of the spouse, also send me:
 - i) The child(ren)'s Birth Certificate(s) and
 - ii) Notarized permit of the other parent to bring the child(ren) to Canada or the US.
- c. In Canada, send the application to Citizen & Immigration Canada (CIC) translated documents to your sponsorship. 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 might have been in bad faith. In that case you must initiate an appeal process that may take many, many months (1+ years). It is recommendable (but not mandatory) to retain the services of a lawyer for the appeal.
- e. To be prepared for the event of an appeal, you must be able to produce documented proofs (starting with the wedding day) that the relationship was in good faith and is still in good standing; like: frequent long distance calls in the telephone bills (not calling cards), airline tickets for trips, correspondence with dated postal seals, proof of support by remittance of money, etc.).

7. CANADIAN CERTIFICATES

a. Birth Certificates

The long form contains the individual's name, date of birth, birthplace, sex, location of birth, parents' names, duration of the pregnancy, weight of the child at birth, type of birth and other additional secondary information.

The short form is the wallet-credit card-sized format containing only your name, date of birth, certificate number, birthplace, sex, date of registration and the date issued.

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.



c. Affidavit of Single Marital Status

Most Mexican states do not require it. Confirm with the Civil Registry Office or the hotel/resort where the wedding will take place. It must be drawn in English and signed by the marrying person(s) in front of a Notary Public before it is translated. When I do your translations, I provide the English format for your Notary to just fill in the blanks. The certifying person must be a Notary Public and not just a Commissioner to take oaths.

d. How do you 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.

8. 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 Mexican 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.

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