

# Information for civil wedding in Spanish-speaking countries

(Click on blue or underlined words for additional info)

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● [Click here for the special page on Cuba, Dom. Rep., Mexico](#) ●

This is the most **complete and straight-to-the-point** source of information on **Where** and **How** to get the required documents and their **legalization processes** for you to **Do It Yourself** or to **Save Money, Aggravation and Time**.

Documents required have some differences between countries but in all cases must be:

- a) Must be accompanied by their [official Spanish translation](#) and
- b) Must be [Legalized by the Canadian Government](#) and [that country's Consulate](#) in Canada.

**If you continue beyond this point is because you accept the [Waiver](#).**

## 1. DOCUMENTS GENERALLY REQUIRED FOR A CIVIL WEDDING

This is a list of the documents you might be required. I will help you determine the ones specifically needed for the country where the wedding will take place. For a religious wedding, I suggest you contact the ecclesiastic authorities in the country.

### a. If never married before:

- i) **Birth Certificate** (Original or certified copy\*)
  - **Long form:** From Canadian Province or Country of birth mandatory in all countries.
  - **Short form:** Accepted only in Dominican Rep. and some Mexican states.
- ii) **Affidavit of Single Marital Status**
- 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.

### b. If previously married:

In addition to 1.a.i), 1.a.ii) and 1.a.iii), the previously married person must produce the original or certified copy\* of the following documents:

- i) **Divorce Certificate or Court Ruling** or
- ii) **Death Certificate of Spouse**

### c. Prenuptial Agreement (optional):

The rules governing matrimonial contracts in the country where you get married are generally enforceable in Canada, even among Canadian couples. For more info [click here](#).

**Important Note:** No document issued in a language different than Spanish is valid in a Spanish-speaking country unless it follows the legalization processes in steps 2 and 3.

## 2. CANADIAN LEGALIZATION PROCESS (The [Do It Yourself](#) option)

- a. **Officially translated** by a certified translator, professionally typewritten, without corrections or erasures. For the most convenient price and **turnaround of 1-2 days**, deal directly with the translator. **Contact Victor by phone, toll free: 1-888-847-8906** or by [e-mail clicking here](#).
- b. **Certified** by a Notary Public of the province where the translation was done (*included in the translation*).
- c. **Authenticated (Apostilled)** by the Official Documentation Service of the province of the notary (fees per document vary between provinces). *Adds 2 to 7 days to the process, depending on how you get it done*.

\* **Note:** The cost of the translation includes the Public Notary's certification of the package of documents and the certified copies needed. [Click here for quote](#).

### 3. CONSULAR LEGALIZATION PROCESS (The Do It Yourself option)

When contacting the Consulate of the country where the wedding will take place, find out the specific documents required, their legalization fees and form of payment. **Most consulates do not accept** credit/debit cards and **many only accept only cash in US dollars**, some accept certified cheque or money order in Canadian dollars. Once you have the package of documents apostiled (see 2a) take them to the consulate with your payment. Usually you must wait for several hours or return some days later to pick them up.

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

In addition to the official translation of your documents, Victor can take care of the whole Canadian and Consular legalization process 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

- a. Check the visa requirements for the country of destination with your travel agency.
- b. A locally performed blood test may be required in some countries to screen out infectious diseases.
- c. Some countries may require foreigners to obtain a local marriage authorization (wedding license).
- d. Most countries have limitations or special requirements for minors to contract matrimony. If you are under 21, check what is the legal age in that country.
- d. Most countries require 2 or 4 witnesses of legal age to sign on the wedding record; check what is the legal age in that country.
- f. The regime of "joint matrimonial ownership of property" is the default one in most countries unless there has been a **prenuptial agreement** which must be recorded in the matrimonial contract. Some countries offer the choice of independent ownership of property at the moment of the ceremony, and even then, it is according that country's rules. In either case the laws of that country on matrimonial contracts are enforceable in Canada, even between Canadian couples, unless there was a **prenuptial agreement** signed in Canada to supersede that. When the spouse is from that country, the preup must be drawn in English and translated into Spanish for both to sign in front of a Notary Public in that country.

### 5. SPANISH MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE

When you return from your wedding trip with your marriage certificate (in Spanish), I will provide you with its official certified English translation to update your marital status in Canada, change of name in the Social Insurance, Driver's license, incorporate your spouse to your employer's benefits plan, etc. [Click here for quote.](#)

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

Marriage to a foreign citizen does not guarantee your spouse's immediate access to Canada, you must file a sponsorship application accompanied by the following documents.

- a. To sponsor a foreign spouse, send me the following documents for their official translation:
  - i. Marriage Certificate (Acta or Partida de Matrimonio)
  - ii. Spouse's Birth Certificate and
  - iii. Spouse's 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 live in Canada permanently.
- c. 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.**

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- d. **Important Note:** There is a considerable chance for the sponsorship 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, hotels, etc. for trips, correspondence with dated postal seals, proof of support with documents for remittance of money, etc.).

## 7. CANADIAN CERTIFICATES

### a. Birth Certificates

- **The long form** contains your name, date of birth, birthplace, sex, location of birth, parents' names, duration of the pregnancy, and additional secondary information. **This is the one you need.**
- **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. No country accepts this format other than Dominican Republic and only some Mexican states.

### 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.



[Alberta](#)



[British Columbia](#)



[Manitoba](#)



[New Brunswick](#)



[Newfoundland Labrador](#)



[NW Territories](#)



[Nova Scotia](#)



[Nunavut](#)



[Ontario](#)



[PEI](#)



[Quebec](#)



[Saskatchewan](#)



[Yukon](#)

### c. Affidavit of Single Marital Status

Must be the original, drawn in English, signed by the marrying person in front of a Notary Public before it is translated. Some countries require supporting affidavits from two witnesses who know the person for a certain number of years. I provide the English format for your Notary to just fill in the blanks. It is very important that the certifying person be a Notary Public, 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 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.

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