

Montgomery County Circuit Court Law Library

50 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850, Room N-3420

Phone: 240-777-9120 Email: mocolawlibrary@mdcourts.gov Hours: 8:00am-4:00pm



Marriage Guide

Information Sources

- Maryland Division of Vital Records: <https://health.maryland.gov/vsa/pages/dvr.aspx>
- Maryland Division of Vital Records Appointment System: <https://www.cognitoforms.com/mdh3/appointmentscheduling>
- U.S. Department of State: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/while-abroad/marriage-abroad.html>

Obtaining a Nonmarriage Certificate

The Maryland Division of Vital Records is open by appointment only. To book an appointment, please visit: <https://www.cognitoforms.com/mdh3/appointmentscheduling>. Appointments take place at 6764B Reisterstown Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21215. If you do not wish to make an in-person appointment, please follow these instructions to obtain a Nonmarriage Certificate by mail. **There is not currently a way to order a Nonmarriage Certificate online.**

1. Go on the Maryland Division of Vital Records website and click on the link that says, "Request Certificates."
 - a. On the next page, click the "Marriage Certificate" link.
 - b. Ignore the instructions and links for ordering the certificate online and scroll down to "Order by Mail." Print the order form:
https://health.maryland.gov/vsa/Documents/Certificates/Marriage/Marriage%20Cert%20Appl_20180411.pdf
 - c. Follow the instructions on the website for filling out the order form and mailing it. In the section of the form that asks for information about your spouse, put "none."
 - d. Mail the form, photocopies of required ID, \$12 fee (make check payable to the Division of Vital Records), and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Division of Vital Records, P.O. Box 68760, Baltimore, MD 21215-0036.
2. If you have questions or need assistance, please call the Division of Vital Records at 410-764-3038.

Please note, if you have lived anywhere else in the United States, you will also need to obtain certificates from those states.

Marriage Abroad

Marriages performed overseas are considered valid in the country where they take place if they are entered into in accordance with local law. Recognition of the validity of marriages performed abroad depends on the laws of the place in which the marriage is to be recognized.

The process of marrying overseas can be time-consuming and expensive. Procedures vary from country to country, and some require lengthy preparation. If you plan to marry in a foreign country, you should find out the requirements of that country before you travel, some of which may include:

- Residency requirements.
- Blood tests.
- Minimum ages.
- Parental consent.
- Documents certifying the end of any previous relationship (such as death or divorce certificates), translated into the local language, and authenticated.
- **Affidavit of Eligibility to Marry/ Affidavit of Single Status:** Some countries require an affidavit by the parties as proof of legal capacity to enter a marriage contract. No such official government-issued document exists in Maryland, but sample affidavits are available at the library. A U.S. embassy or consulate cannot attest to your marital status. However, most

countries will accept a statement from you regarding your ability to marry if your signature on the affidavit has been notarized by a U.S. consular officer.

Contact the embassy or Tourist Information Bureau of the country where you plan to marry to learn about specific requirements. You can also find foreign embassy and consulate contact information on the Department of State website:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/consularnotification/ConsularNotificationandAccess.html>

Validity of Marriages Abroad

If you get married abroad and need to know if your marriage will be recognized in the United States and what documentation may be needed, contact the office of the Attorney General of your state of residence in the United States. To record a foreign marriage in Montgomery County, see the Frequently Asked Questions for the License Department:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cct/marriage-license.html>

Marriage to a Foreign Citizen

You can get information on obtaining a visa for a foreign spouse here: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate/family-immigration/immigrant-visa-for-a-spouse-or-fiance-of-a-us-citizen.html>.

Certificate of Witness to Marriage Abroad

If a marriage abroad before November 9, 1989 was witnessed by a U.S. Consular Officer, you can obtain a Certificate of Witness to Marriage Abroad: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/replace-certify-docs/requesting-a-record/request-copy-marriage-abroad.html>.