



MARRIAGE IN BELGIUM



LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE
NORTHERN LAW CENTER
SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED POWERS EUROPE
BELGIUM

MILITARY REGULATIONS ON MARRIAGE OVERSEAS

ARMY MEMBERS

There is no Army Regulation.

AIR FORCE MEMBERS

There is a regulation on marriage overseas. Check with your Air Force Element.

NAVY MEMBERS

There is a regulation on marriage overseas. Check with your Navy Element.

HOW GETTING MARRIED OVERSEAS?

Applicants will go together to the civil status office of the town where the marriage will be performed. If prospective spouses are service members or anywhere else as long as one of the future spouse has been registered in the town or village for at least 6 months. They will receive instructions from the clerk handling marriages. They will provide you a handout this document is most of the time available in English. Belgian authorities insist on meeting the couple before any file can be started. No information is given to a third party.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

OFFICIAL PASSPORT

For military personnel, reach out to the Central Processing Facility to the following phone number: 02 28 08 47 or 065 75 74 85.

For civilian personnel, please contact the U.S. Embassy in Brussels located at Boulevard du Régent 27 1000 Brussels. For more information, you may reach out to the U.S. Embassy at the following phone number: 02 811 4100 or consult their website by clicking [here](#)

or by typing the following address in a web browser: <https://be.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/passports/>.

Note that official passport are valid for five years.

BIRTH CERTIFICATE

One recent copy, not older than 6 months, is required. It must be issued by an official agency, such as the Vital Statistics Bureau of the State in which the birth occurred. Hospital birth certificates are not acceptable. Birth certificate must show the complete affiliation, the complete names of both parents, with the middle name spelled out, the place and date of birth of both parents. A substitute of a birth certificate is not acceptable. The birth certificate must be a true copy bearing the handwritten signature of the certifying authority (*usually the Clerk or Registrar of the County*), with embossed or colored seal of the issuing agency and the date of issue of the copy.

After copy has been obtained, it will be submitted to the Secretary of State of the State in which it was issued, in order to be attached to an Apostille. This Apostille (*bearing the handwritten signature of the Secretary of State and the official seal of their office*), states that the appropriate authority in the state concerned issued the copy of the birth certificate.

For more information, please consult the CDV website by clicking [here](#) or by typing the following address in a web browser: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w/index.htm>

After obtaining the recent copy of the birth certificate and the apostille attached to it, these documents must be translated by a sworn translator. Please consult the official Belgian sworn translators website : <https://belgian-sworn-translator.be/>

- THIS INFORMATION PAPER IS NOT LEGAL ADVICE –
FOR LEGAL ADVICE PLEASE CONSULT AN ATTORNEY
USARMY.BRUSSELS.21-TSC.MBX.NLC-LEGAL-ASSISTANCE@ARMY.MIL

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EXTRACT OF DIVORCE DECREE, DEATH CERTIFICATE & OTHERS

One recent certified copy from the official agencies or courts, less than 6 months old and with an Apostille.

Whenever a separation agreement entered into prior a divorce decree is mentioned in the said decree, a certified true copy of the said agreement will also have to be produced. The same requirements for this copy as for birth certificate and all other documents apply.

ADOPTION DECREE, CHANGE OF NAME DECREE & OTHERS

Same requirements as for birth certificate and all other documents.

PARENT'S CONSENT

Parental consent is needed if one or both prospective spouses is/are under legal age for marriage pursuant to the laws of their respective states: such consent has to be made up by the parent who is the legal guardian and a notarization is requested. The staff at the Office of the Judge Advocate will take care of the notarization and of the translation of the documents.

CERTIFICATE OF RESIDENCE

For U.S. service members, certificate of residence will be completed and signed by the military personnel officer. Dependents and U.S. Civilian Employees assigned at SHAPE are required to have a Belgian ID Card. The "communal authorities" of the town where they are registered will provide the certificate of residence. There is a fee.

U.S. Civilian Employees will produce a Certificate of Employment. Said certificate will further indicate the period of assignment of the U.S. Civilian employee and his/her status (married, divorced, widow or single). Civilian personnel office will issue this certificate.

For U.S. Service Members, Family dependent or U.S. Civilian Employees who is not a Belgian ID holder, an affidavit can be done at the U.S. Embassy in Brussels.

DOCUMENT TO BE OBTAINED FROM THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

The U.S. Embassy will deliver one document being a "déclaration sous serment" (summarizes the filiations of the applicants, mentions their civil status (single, divorced...), a certificate of nationality and a certificate de coutume that indicates the legal age for marriage in accordance with the State of Residence. The Consul or his representative will certify that, after verification of the documents, such as divorce decrees, death certificate of former spouse, etc., the individual is legally free to marry.

The U.S. Embassy is located at Boulevard du Régent 27 1000 Brussels. You can reach out to them at following phone number: 02 811 4100.

Both applicants will go again together to the town hall for the procedure called the "déclaration". A sworn interpreter of their choice will accompany them.

For the wedding ceremony, the non-French speaking individuals will be accompanied with an interpreter. For more information regarding the cost of this service, please contact the interpret directly.

LEGAL CONSEQUENCES

VALIDITY

A marriage contracted in Belgium is valid in the United-States.

CONTRACT PRIOR THE CEREMONY

In Belgium, prospective spouses usually enter into a marriage contract prior to the ceremony. This has to be considered carefully when a Belgian national is involved, as it may have legal consequences in case of divorce or death of one of the parties. A Belgian notary should be contacted to prepare the contract.

NATIONALITY

It should be mentioned that since 1 January 1985, dual nationality will be given to children born of a marriage between a U.S. Citizen and a Belgian national. Legal consequences should be carefully considered and controlled.

MARRIAGE CEREMONY

A short civil ceremony is performed at the town hall of the commune where one of the parties resides. The marriage is recorded in the registers of the civil status of the town hall and a marriage booklet (livret de mariage) is issued to the couple. Northern Law Center provides translation services for the marriage certificate.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

KNOWING THE PROCESS BEFORE PLANNING

It is recommended that no final plans for the wedding be made before all the papers are ready and have been approved by the clerk of the civil status of the town where the marriage will be performed.

MARRIAGE IN EUROPE – OUTSIDE OF BELGIUM

Other countries in Europe, for example Denmark, allow you to get married with less administrative procedures. For more information, contact the Northern Law Center and/or consult their website by clicking on [here](#) or by typing the following address in a web browser: *https://dk.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/local-resources-of-u-s-citizens/getting-married/*.

DOUBLE PROXY MARRIAGE IN MONTANA

Montana allows active duty military personnel to participate in double proxy marriages where neither you nor your fiancé is required to be present. Montana proxy marriages are legal, binding unions and are recognized by all states, and all branches of the U.S. Military.