



# CLIENT SERVICES & POLICY DIVISION

## Legal Assistance Office

---



### Getting Married in Denmark

As of April 1, 2019, the rules for getting married in Denmark have changed. The required procedure depends on the nationality and residence status of the parties to the marriage. For more information in English regarding marriage in Denmark, please visit the Danish Familieretshuset (Agency of Family Law) website at: <https://familieretshuset.dk/en/your-life-situation/your-life-situation/international-marriages>.

Before you can get married in Denmark, you must have a certificate of marital status. A certificate of marital status is documentation that you meet the conditions in the Danish Act on the Formation and Dissolution of Marriage (Marriage Act). You must either apply for a certificate of marital status (prøvelsesattest) from the Agency of Family Law or the municipality. Where you should apply depends on both of your nationalities or your basis for residence in Denmark.

If you are both Danish or Nordic citizens, or have permanent residence in Denmark, or have a right of permanent residence in Denmark pursuant to the Executive Order on EU Residence, then you must apply at the municipality. You must apply at the municipality regardless of whether you wish to get married in Denmark or abroad. The contact information for the individual municipalities is: [https://familieretshuset.dk/media/1314/proevelsesmyndighed\\_kommuner\\_dk.pdf](https://familieretshuset.dk/media/1314/proevelsesmyndighed_kommuner_dk.pdf).

If you or your partner is not a Danish or Nordic citizen, do not have permanent residence in Denmark, and do not have a right of permanent residence in Denmark pursuant to the Executive Order on EU Residence, then before you can get married in Denmark, you must have a certificate of marital status.

A certificate of marital status is documentation that you meet the conditions in the Danish Act on the Formation and Dissolution of Marriage (Marriage Act). You must either apply for a certificate of marital status (prøvelsesattest) from the Agency of Family Law or the municipality. Where you should apply depends on both of your nationalities or your basis for residence in Denmark.

Marriages performed in Denmark are recognized as valid marriages in the United States. If you are marrying in Denmark, you will also need the following documents:

- a. Birth certificate, it must be an original, and must not be older than 6 months. If your birth certificate is older than 6 months, you will need to contact the state in which you were born and obtain a new birth certificate.
- b. Valid passport or Military ID. Military ID cards are not always accepted. If you do not have a passport Danish authorities require an affidavit stating the applicant is an American citizen done in front of a public notary, either at your local OSJA or U.S. General consulate.
- c. Residence Permit: If your fiancé is not already subject to the NATO Status of Forces Agreement, he or she will need a residence permit from his or her hometown not older than 6 weeks.
- d. Leave Orders: If you are in the military, you will need a copy of your leave orders. (Permission from Commander is necessary).

- e. Certificate of your marital status no longer required for U.S. Citizens.
- f. If under the age of 18, written permission from the parents and from the appropriate administrative authorities (in Copenhagen: the *Overpraesidium*; outside Copenhagen: the *County Prefect*).
- g. If either party is divorced or widowed, he/she must send a copy of the final divorce decree or certificate of the former partner's death by registered mail. *United States divorce decrees generally do not meet the requirements of Danish law.* The Ministry of Justice may require an additional statement from the court where the marriage was dissolved indicating that the divorce was finalized, the effective date of the divorce, there has been no appeal, and both parties are legally free to remarry. The divorce decree should be sent to the Ministry at least one month prior to the desired wedding date to ensure acceptance.

Some locations require your commander to issue orders approving of your trip to get married in Denmark. We encourage you to contact Denmark ahead of your trip to ensure you have the necessary documents and will be in compliance with their marriage requirements. For a list of municipalities and municipality contact information, please visit the Department of State website located at: <https://dk.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/local-resources-of-u-s-citizens/getting-married/>

If you have further questions, please make an appointment with the legal assistance office by emailing us at: [USARMY.WIESBADEN.USAREUR.MBX.OJA-WLC-LEGAL-ASSISTANCE-CALENDAR@MAIL.MIL](mailto:USARMY.WIESBADEN.USAREUR.MBX.OJA-WLC-LEGAL-ASSISTANCE-CALENDAR@MAIL.MIL).