

# Weddings Legal Requirements

## **THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF ALL THE DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED BY DOMINICAN LAW IN ORDER TO GET LEGALLY MARRIED IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:**

- Birth Certificate of Bride and Groom or certified copy of Birth certificate. If parents' names are not shown on the certificates, please indicate them separately.
- Notarized Declaration of Single status for the Bride and Groom. If previously married, submit two copies of the Divorce Decree or Death Certificate. Three (3) is a mandatory waiting period for women, ten (10) months before they are legally allowed to remarry.
- A photocopy of Bride and Groom's Passport.
- Photocopies of all Witnesses Passports. Cannot be family members. If necessary, resort will provide witnesses.
- Bride & Groom must be in the country Three (3) business days prior to the wedding. Symbolic and non-legal ceremonies allow flexibility for arrival date. Please speak with the wedding coordinator to discuss requirements.

Please note: The Dominican Republic is now a member of the La Hague Convention, please have your official documents apostilled by your Secretary of State Office. You can Also contact "Vitalcheck.com" to request apostilled Documents.

## **FOR RELIGIOUS WEDDINGS YOU WILL ALSO NEED:**

Have your Matrimonial Preparation at the Chapel of your place of residency if the couple is living together, or at the Bride's Chapel if you are engaged. You will both need the following documentation:

- Baptismal Certificate, with no longer than six (6) months of issuance, with indication of
- Confirmation if applicable.
- Civil Wedding Certificate, if applicable.
- Birth Certificates of your children, if applicable.
- Annulment Certificate from the Church, if applicable.
- Written proof from the Chapel of the Matrimonial Preparation.
- Document from the Chapel's Priest authorizing this marriage to be celebrated out of his Chapel, and delegating this Marriage to corresponding priest, Chapel Priest of Our Lady of Pilar, in Beron (or corresponding Chapel and Priest), Dominican Republic.
- Document of the Chancellor of the Dioceses approving this matrimony out of his territory.
- Translation of these documents to Spanish, if the language is other than French, English, Portuguese or Italian.

All documents must be translated and legalized by the Dominican Consulate prior to arriving in the Dominican Republic, except for the Passports. The Dominican Consulate should legalize the documents no more than three (3) months prior to the wedding date. It is the couple's responsibility to have all the documentation ready prior to the wedding. For a quick and reliable translation and legalization service of your paper work you could contact contact "Wedding Documentation (WE DO)" For fees, procedures, and any other information, you can also call (1 809) 383 2199, (281) 920-3456 or 1 800 686-WEDO Fax (281)741-2623.

The Judge is an outside service provided by the Dominican Government. We cannot be held responsible for any delay or alteration. The Judge will duly register your Wedding Certificate at the Central Civil Board and legalize it with the Foreign Affairs Department of the Dominican Republic. We will then send the Wedding Certificate to the couple via mail, which may take up to 15 weeks.

The Civil Wedding is celebrated in Spanish. If necessary, wedding planners could provide English, translators without an additional charge. Your marriage certificate will be sent to you in Spanish, you will then need to have it translated and legalized into English.

Please be aware that a Chapel fee applies in all religious ceremonies held in Dominican Republic.

No paperwork is required for a symbolic wedding. Normally the wedding planner will officiate. You can however bring your own Minister or pay for the service of one locally.