



PROCEDURES FOR PERSONS MARRYING IN ST. MAARTEN

I. DOCUMENTS & INFORMATION REQUIRED

- 1) **ORIGINAL UNABRIDGED* BIRTH CERTIFICATE:** A full length, original birth certificate of both parties, proving the legality of same. These documents must be provided **with an "Apostille Stamp"**.

**The "unabridged" or "long version" Birth Certificate always has the names of your parents listed on the birth certificate! If not, it is considered a short version of the birth certificate, and not valid for this application!!!!*
- 2) **DECLARATION OF MARITAL STATUS:** Unmarried persons must present a declaration of marital status **not** older than 3 months and must be accompanied by **an Apostille Stamp**. This can be obtained from the office of Vital Statistics or the Civil Registry office from the state in which you reside. It is a sworn letter of attestation which states that you have never been married before.
- 3) **PASSPORT COPIES:** Both parties must submit legible copies of their passports (color copies are preferable).
- 4) **QUESTIONNAIRE:** It is imperative that the Client Questionnaire be complete and signed as it contains essential information for our files. This document must be submitted to your planner via Fax or e-mail within short delays of your request.
- 5) **DEPOSIT:** Upon entering the contract with St. Maarten Marry-Me, a non-refundable deposit of USD \$500.00 will be required to secure your wedding date.

NOTE: *These documents should be in the possession of the wedding coordinator, **no later than two months** prior to the actual wedding date.*

II. WITNESSES

- Six (6) witnesses are required if marriage is performed outside of the Marriage hall. Copies of passports and birth certificates and their profession must be provided.
- Witnesses **must be** 18 years and older.
- If Marriage is performed at the Marriage Hall, only two witnesses must be provided.
- Witnesses can be provided by St. Maarten Marry-Me, if none are available from the bridal party.

NOTE: If **widowed**, a death certificate with Apostille stamp is required. If **divorced**, an Original divorce certificate or a final judgment decree with an Apostille Stamp must be provided.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

❖ **What is an Apostille Stamps?**

The Apostille legalizes a document for international use under the terms of the 1961 Hague Convention abolishing the requirements of legalization for foreign public documents. Please note that it is NOT an raised seal! The Apostille is in most cases a separate document which is attached to your original document.

❖ **How do I obtain an Apostille Stamp?** It is issued by ones birthplace state office (for your Birth certificate) and/or by the State office of ones' residence (Marital Status). If you are uncertain about the location of these offices, please contact us and we shall forward the relevant address to you.

❖ **How do I register my Marriage License?**

Once your ceremony has been legally performed, you will receive an official document which should be taken to your local Marriage Hall to be officially registered in your country of residence.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL DOCUMENTS HAVE TO BE ORIGINALS AND WILL BE RETURNED AFTER ALL DOCUMENTATION HAS BEEN APPROPRIATELY FILED BY THE AUTHORITIES.