

Immigration & Marriage Toolkit

The Complete Guide for International Couples to Get Married and Start Their Immigration Journey

Welcome to your go-to guide for legally marrying someone from another country and navigating the immigration process together. Whether you're doing long-distance, living abroad, or planning to reunite in one country, this toolkit will walk you through each step with clarity.

Part 1: Legal Marriage Options (No Visa Required to Marry)

Couples from two different countries have several ways to get legally married:

- Get married in one partner's home country (follow their local legal steps).
- Travel together and marry in a third country that allows non-residents to marry.
- Get legally married online through a state like Utah, even if neither of you live in the U.S. (recognized in all 50 states and internationally).

✓ Tip: Legal online marriages do not require either partner to be physically in the U.S.

Marriage Requirements Checklist (Typical Documents Needed)

- Valid government-issued photo ID (passport or driver's license)
- Birth certificate (translated if needed)
- Proof of single status (affidavit or divorce decree if required)
- Two witnesses (sometimes optional)
- Application fee for marriage license
- Apostille or translation if the certificate will be used internationally

Step-by-Step: How to Get Legally Married Online

1. Choose a service provider licensed in Utah (e.g., LoveLife Weddings)
2. Submit your IDs and basic info online to apply for a Utah marriage license

3. Pick a date and time for your Zoom ceremony with an official officiant
4. Attend the Zoom wedding with or without guests — it's fully legal!
5. Receive your certified U.S. marriage certificate via mail
6. Request an apostille for international use, if needed

Marriage Planning Timeline Template

This helps couples stay on track with paperwork and decisions:

- Choose your marriage method and provider: _____
- Submit legal documents by: _____
- Schedule ceremony by: _____
- Receive and process marriage certificate by: _____
- Apply for apostille (optional): _____

Part 2: Immigration & Visa Planning

Once married, your next step may be to bring your partner to your country permanently. This section outlines what to expect with spousal visas, fiancé visas, or adjustment of status.

Visa Options Overview

- K-1 Fiancé Visa (U.S.): For engaged couples. Partner travels to the U.S. to marry within 90 days.
- CR-1 or IR-1 Spousal Visa: For couples already legally married (e.g., via online marriage).
- Adjustment of Status: For non-citizen partners already in the U.S. with a valid visa.
- Family Sponsorship Visas: Available in countries like Canada, UK, and Australia.

Immigration Application Checklist

- Certified marriage certificate (apostilled if used internationally)
- Valid passports for both partners
- Birth certificates (with translations)

- Proof of ongoing relationship (photos, chats, video logs, etc.)
- Police background checks
- Immigration medical exam (required for many countries)
- Financial sponsor forms (e.g., I-864 in the U.S.)

Final Application Tips

- Triple check that names and dates match on all documents.
- Make a digital and printed copy of everything submitted.
- Track your submission and response dates.
- Consult a licensed immigration lawyer if your case is complex.

Notes & Questions

Use this space to jot down what's next or what documents you're missing:

Disclaimer

This toolkit is educational and does not substitute for legal or immigration advice.
Please consult a licensed immigration attorney for help with your individual case.



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