

## Legalities of Getting Married in South Africa

Marriage license requirements often change. The above information is for guidance only and should not be regarded as legal advice. Visit the Dept of Home Affairs website for further details.

### ***BOTH PARTIES ARE SOUTH AFRICAN***

The marriage officer will require you to supply the following documents:

1. **2x Clear copies of your Identity Documents**
2. **2x Clear copies of your *Witnesses* Identity Documents**
3. **3x ID size photo's of Groom & Bride**
4. **Clear copies of Divorce Decrees (if applicable)**
5. **Clear copies of Death Certificates (if applicable)**

The marriage officer will present you with your original Abridged marriage certificate immediately after the ceremony and the marriage officer will register your marriage with the Department of Home Affairs.

### ***If PARTIES ARE NOT SOUTH AFRICAN***

The marriage officer needs to be supplied with the following documents:

1. **2x Clear copies of your Passport**
2. **2x Clear copies of Entry Visa / Entry Stamp by custom officer**
3. **2x Clear copies of "Letter of No Impediment" from home country (ONE of which is ORIGINAL)**
4. **2x Clear copies of your *Witnesses* Identity Documents or Passport if foreigner**
5. **2x Clear copies of *Witnesses* Entry Visa / Entry Stamp by custom officer**
6. **3x ID size photo's of Groom & Bride**
7. **Clear copies of Divorce Decrees (if applicable)**
8. **Clear copies of Death Certificates (if applicable)**

Groom & Bride needs to complete a "Declaration for the Purpose of Marriage" (Form BI-31) which they will complete in the presence of the marriage officer. An Abridged Marriage Certificate will be issued to you immediately after the ceremony. The Marriage Officer will register your marriage with the Department of Home Affairs. The Unabridged Marriage Certificate (BI-130) which you can use to register your marriage back in your home country must be applied for by the couple at Department of Home Affairs. This is a handwritten legal document that you will receive.

**If ONE PARTY IS SOUTH AFRICAN AND ONE PARTY FOREIGN.**

The marriage officer needs to be supplied with the following documents:

1. 2x Clear copies of your Passport or ID book
2. 2x Clear copies of Entry Visa / Entry Stamp by custom officer (Foreigner)
3. 2x Clear copies of "Letter of No Impediment" from home country (ONE of which is ORIGINAL) (Foreigner)
4. 2x Clear copies of your Witnesses Identity Documents or Passport if foreigner
5. 2x Clear copies of Witnesses Entry Visa / Entry Stamp by custom officer (Foreigner)
6. 3x ID size photo's of Groom & Bride
7. Clear copies of Divorce Decrees (if applicable)
8. Clear copies of Death Certificates (if applicable)

**Please Note:** Upon arrive in South Africa the couple needs to have made an appointment at the Dept Home Affairs for an interview with an Immigration officer to authenticate your documents.

*Please contact Paarl Regional Office (+27 21 870 4409) to arrange an interview.*

**Interviews are ONLY conducted on certain days, so appointments are essential.**

The foreigner needs to complete a "Declaration for the Purpose of Marriage" (Form BI-31) which they will complete in the presence of the marriage officer. An Abridged Marriage Certificate will be issued to you immediately after the ceremony. The Marriage Officer will register your marriage with the Department of Home Affairs. The Unabridged Marriage Certificate (BI-130) which you can use to register your marriage back in your home country must be applied for by the couple at Department of Home Affairs. This is a handwritten legal document that you will receive.