

MARRIAGE IN VIETNAM

In general, marriages legally performed and valid abroad are also legally valid in the United States. Inquiries regarding the validity of a marriage abroad should be directed to the attorney general of the state in the United States where the parties to the marriage will live.

The laws of Vietnam do not actually provide for marriages between two non-Vietnamese citizens, unless one of the two foreigners is having permanent resident permit or temporary resident permit in Vietnam.

Vietnamese Marriage Requirements:

Applications for marriage between a citizen of a foreign country and a Vietnamese citizen residing in Vietnam or between two non-Vietnamese citizens (at least one of them is holding a permanent/temporary resident permit) should be filed in person at the District People's Committee (which is handled by the District Justice Office) where the Vietnamese citizen or non-Vietnamese citizen resides. All documents obtained from the U.S. must be accompanied by a certified translation into Vietnamese from either the Vietnamese Consulate/Embassy in the U.S. or a Vietnamese notary public. Although requirements for obtaining marriage certificates may vary from province to province, the general requirements for the U.S. citizen partner are as follow:

1. Marriage registration dossiers (obtained from the Vietnamese District Justice Offices)
2. Certified copy of the U.S. citizen's passport.
3. A written certification granted by a Vietnamese or foreign competent health organization within 6 months to the date of the dossiers is submitted, certifying that the applicant does not suffer from mental diseases which render him/her incapable of being aware of and controlling his/her acts. Please contact the District Justice Offices for specific instructions.
4. Affidavit of Single Status. The applicant can request this document from the civil registry in the state in which he/she resides or complete this affidavit at the U.S. Embassy/Consulate in Vietnam. This affidavit must be signed within six months of application for a marriage certificate. If the applicant had a previous marriage, present an authenticated copy of the divorce decree or death certificate of the previous spouse(s). The notarization fee at the U.S. Embassy/Consulate is \$50 USD/document. You have to make appointment online for this service.
5. Statement in lieu of Certification of Non-Impediment to Marriage. The applicant can request this document at the U.S. Embassy/Consulate without charge.
6. A letter by the U.S. local vital statistics office certifies that no marriage license or marriage certificate of the applicant is found within the state where the applicant is residing in. The search period must be started from the year when the applicant was 18-year-old up to date. In case the applicant was divorced, or the spouse has been deceased, a certified photocopy of a divorce decree or a death certificate must be submitted. (This requirement varies from province to province).

Note:

- Time limit for marriage registration in Vietnam is 15 days as from the date when the District Justice Office receives complete and valid dossiers. In cases which need to be verified by the police offices, the time can be extended to 10 more days.
- After receiving complete dossiers and fees, District Justice Office shall conduct a face-to-face interview with both parties in order to examine and clarify the voluntariness of their marriages, their capability of communication with one another in a common language and their understanding about each other.
- The District Justice Office may handle the marriage registration on a case-by-case basis.
- The Vietnamese citizen partner should consult with Vietnamese authorities about that partner's requirements.