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# Marriage in Germany

The following statements are mostly quotations or translated quotations from the sources (sometimes slightly altered). **Translated quotations are in italics.**

## What documents are required for marriage?

- ***valid identification paper (identity card/passport)***
- ***certified copy of the birth register/birth certificate***
- ***residence certificate (issued by the registration office)***
- *for divorced fiancées: marriage certificate and divorce decree (of all marriages already concluded)*
- *additionally for widowed fiancées: marriage certificate and death certificate of the deceased partner*
- *additionally for children living in the partnership: birth certificate and acknowledgment of paternity*
- ***additionally for foreigners: residence permit and marriage certificate ("Ehefähigkeitszeugnis")***

## Remarks on the marriage certificate ("Ehefähigkeitszeugnis")

*The marriage certificate is required in two cases:*

- *if Germans want to get married abroad and*
- *if non-German nationals want to get married in Germany.*

*The marriage certificate is valid for six months from the date of issue.*

### ***Is it possible to be exempted from applying for a marriage certificate?***

*In principle, you cannot be exempted from applying for a marriage certificate. Exceptions apply if the state of which you are a citizen does not issue any certificates of no impediment to marriage. In this case, the President of the Higher Regional Court in whose district the marriage was registered must make the decision. Ultimately, however, the registrar is still responsible, who can object to the marriage if he suspects that there are obstacles to the marriage or marriage bans. **You are also automatically exempt from having to provide a marriage certificate if you enter into a same-sex marriage.***

## Remarks on the residence permit

See [German residence permit](#).

## Sources

[Source 1 \(German\)](#).

[Source 2 \(German\)](#).

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