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COMPASS

Cross-Border Marriage Kit

FRA ↔ DEU

CROSS-BORDER MARIAGE KIT

FRA – DEU

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Overview

CATEGORY	FRANCE	GERMANY
AUTHORITIES IN CHARGE	Town Hall (Mairie) – civil registrar. Banns must be posted (10 days).	Standesamt (civil registry). You must file an Anmeldung der Eheschließung (marriage registration) that is valid for 6 months ; you can marry at any Standesamt within that window.
COSTS	No fixed national fee for the civil ceremony; expect document, translation, and copy fees depending on the mairie.	Standesamt fees vary by municipality; expect fees for registration, certificate issuance , and any translations required. (<i>Confirm locally.</i>)
PROCESSING TIMES	Banns : at least 10 days ; a residence link (commune of one spouse or a parent) is required to marry at a mairie.	Once the Anmeldung is approved, you have 6 months to hold the ceremony; document checks happen before approval.
LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS	Foreign documents must be accompanied by a sworn French translation when required by the mairie.	Foreign documents may need German translations ; the Standesamt tells you which ones.
APOSTILLE / LEGALISATION	For France↔Germany, many civil-status documents are exempt from apostille/legalisation under EU Reg. 2016/1191 ; you can attach EU multilingual standard forms to avoid translations.	Same as France: use multilingual standard forms where available; otherwise provide certified translations as instructed.
IMMIGRATION EFFECT	For French–German spouses (both EU) : this is not a visa route ; EU free-movement rules apply for residence in another Member State (admin registration still required).	Family members of EU citizens have the right to accompany/join in another EU country, subject to local formalities.

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KEY INSIGHTS

- France requires **civil marriage** at the **mairie** with **banns (10 days)**; Germany requires **civil marriage** at the **Standesamt** with a prior **registration** that's **valid 6 months**.
- Between **France and Germany**, many **civil-status documents** circulate **without apostille**; attach **EU multilingual forms** when possible to reduce translation needs.

Legal Requirements

FRANCE

- **Civil marriage** at the **Town Hall (Mairie)** is the **only legally valid** form. Religious ceremonies have **no legal effect**.
- **Where you can marry**: in the commune where at least **one spouse resides**, or where a **parent** of one spouse resides. A **residence link of about 1 month** is generally required.
- **Banns**: must be posted publicly at the mairie for **at least 10 days** before the ceremony.
- **Witnesses**: between **2 and 4 adults** with valid **ID**.

Documents required (for German citizen):

- **Passport or national ID**.
- **Full birth certificate** (issued within the last **6 months**).
- **Certificate of no impediment to marriage** (Ehefähigkeitszeugnis), issued by German authorities. Some French mairies may still request a **certificat de coutume**, but German embassies clarify that the **EFZ is the correct document**.
- If previously married: **divorce decree** or **death certificate**.
- **Proof of residence** in the commune (utility bill, lease, attestation).
- **Translations**: all German documents must be translated into **French** by a **sworn translator (traducteur assermenté)**, unless issued with an **EU multilingual form** under **Regulation 2016/1191**, which exempts apostille and translation.

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GERMANY

- **Civil marriage** at the **Standesamt** is the **only legally valid** form. Religious ceremonies have **no legal effect**.
- **Marriage registration (Anmeldung der Eheschließung)** must be completed at the Standesamt before the wedding. The registration is **valid for 6 months**; the wedding can take place at any Standesamt in Germany within that period.
- **Banns**: there is **no public banns requirement** in Germany (abolished in 1998).

Documents required (for French citizen):

- **Passport or national ID.**
- **Full birth certificate** (issued within the last **6 months**).
- **Certificate of capacity to marry** (Certificat de Capacité à Mariage – CCAM) from the French Consulate.
- Some Standesämter may still ask for an **Ehefähigkeitszeugnis (EFZ)**; if not possible, the Standesamt will request an **exemption** from the **Higher Regional Court (OLG)**.
- If previously married: **divorce decree** (foreign divorces outside the EU require **recognition** by German authorities before you can remarry) or **death certificate**.
- **Proof of residence** in Germany.
- **Translations**: all French documents must be translated into **German** by a **sworn translator (öffentlich bestellter Übersetzer)** unless provided in **EU multilingual format**.
- **Name law**: since **1 May 2025**, spouses in Germany can now declare a **joint double-barrelled married name (max 2 parts)**. German names **do not change automatically** upon marriage — a declaration is required.

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Marrying in France (with a German citizen)

DOCUMENTS

- **Passports/IDs** for both spouses.
- **French spouse:** recent **birth certificate** (≤ 3 months).
- **German spouse:** recent **birth certificate** (≤ 6 months), + **Ehefähigkeitszeugnis (EFZ)** or equivalent.
- **Proof of residence** in the French commune (utility bill, lease).
- **Certificate of célibat/no impediment** if requested by the mairie.
- **Divorce decree** or **death certificate** if previously married.
- **2–4 witnesses** with valid **ID**.
- **Translations:** all German documents → **sworn French translations**, unless issued in **EU multilingual format** (Reg. 2016/1191).

STEPS & TIMELINE

1. **Gather documents** in both countries (allow **1–2 months** for EFZ + translations).
2. Obtain apostilles or multilingual forms where applicable.
3. **Submit the marriage file** at the French mairie.
4. Possible **pre-marriage interview** (audition) at the mairie.
5. **Publication of banns** for **10 days**.
6. **Civil ceremony** at the mairie with **2–4 witnesses**.
7. Delivery of the **French marriage certificate** + **livret de famille**.
8. If the German spouse intends to live in France → register with French authorities; no visa needed (EU citizen), but must apply for a **residence attestation** at the prefecture/mairie.

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Marrying in Germany (with a French citizen)

DOCUMENTS

- **Passports/IDs** for both spouses.
- **German spouse:** recent **birth certificate** (≤ 6 months).
- **French spouse:** recent **birth certificate** (≤ 3 months).
- **Certificate of capacity to marry (CCAM)** from the French Consulate in Germany.
- **EFZ (Ehefähigkeitszeugnis)** may be required; if France cannot provide it, the Standesamt will request an **OLG exemption**.
- **Proof of residence** in Germany.
- **Divorce decree** (foreign divorces outside EU require prior recognition in Germany) or **death certificate** if applicable.
- **Translations:** French documents must be **sworn German translations**, unless provided with **EU multilingual forms**.

STEPS & TIMELINE

1. **Register the marriage (Anmeldung der Eheschließung)** at the Standesamt with full documentation.
2. Standesamt verifies documents; if EFZ exemption needed, applies to **OLG** → adds several weeks.
3. Once registration is accepted, it is **valid for 6 months**.
4. Book and attend the **civil ceremony** at the Standesamt.
5. Obtain the **German marriage certificate (Eheurkunde)**.
6. If the French spouse wants recognition in France → request **transcription** of the German marriage at the **French Consulate** or **SCEC Nantes**, then obtain a **French livret de famille**.
7. For residence in Germany: French spouse registers under **EU free movement rules** (no visa required, but must apply for local registration “Anmeldung”).

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Recognition in the other country

French marriage recognized in Germany

REQUIREMENT	HOW TO PROVIDE	WHERE	TIMING	NOTES
MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE	Obtain an official French marriage certificate (extrait or copie intégrale).	From the mairie where marriage was celebrated.	Immediately after the wedding.	Request a multilingual extract to simplify use in Germany.
APOSTILLE / LEGALISATION	Not required under EU Regulation 2016/1191.	N/A	N/A	Apostille abolished for FR–DE documents; use multilingual forms instead.
TRANSLATION	If not using a multilingual extract, provide a sworn German translation .	Sworn translator (<i>öffentlich bestellter Übersetzer</i>).	Few days.	Only necessary if standard forms are not available.
REGISTRATION IN GERMANY	Optional “ Nachbeurkundung ” to obtain a German marriage certificate (Eheurkunde).	Local Standesamt .	Few weeks.	Facilitates German admin (name, passports, pensions).

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German marriage recognized in France

REQUIREMENT	HOW TO PROVIDE	WHERE	TIMING	NOTES
MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE	Obtain a German Eheurkunde (marriage certificate).	Issued by Standesamt after ceremony.	Immediately after wedding.	Request the multilingual version to avoid translation.
APOSTILLE / LEGALISATION	Not required under EU Regulation 2016/1191.	N/A	N/A	Apostille abolished between FR-DE.
TRANSLATION	If no multilingual extract is available, provide a sworn French translation .	Sworn French translator (<i>traducteur assermenté</i>).	Few days.	Not needed if multilingual extract is used.
TRANSCRIPTION IN FRANCE	Submit marriage certificate for transcription .	French Consulate in Germany or SCEC Nantes .	1–3 months.	Transcription is mandatory to obtain a French livret de famille .

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Special cases & red flags

- **Prior divorce** → In Germany, **foreign divorces outside the EU** must be **formally recognised** by the **Oberlandesgericht (OLG)** before remarriage is possible. EU divorces are usually recognised automatically.
- **Ehefähigkeitszeugnis (EFZ) exemption** → If the French spouse cannot provide an **EFZ**, the Standesamt applies for an **exemption (Befreiung)** via the **OLG**. This procedure can take several weeks.
- **Banns vs. no banns** → **France** requires **banns (10 days)** before marriage. **Germany** abolished banns (**Aufgebot**) in 1998; only **registration at the Standesamt** is required.
- **Translations** → **France** requires **sworn French translations** (*traducteurs assermentés*). **Germany** requires **sworn German translators** (*öffentlich bestellte Übersetzer*). Using uncertified translators leads to rejection.
- **Names after marriage** → Since **May 2025**, German law allows couples to choose a **joint double-barrelled name (max 2 parts)**. Married names are **not automatic**; a **formal name declaration** at the Standesamt may be necessary.
- **Immigration effects** → As both are **EU citizens**, no visa is required. But proper **registration** remains compulsory: **Anmeldung** in Germany, prefecture/mairie registration in France.

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Checklists

FRANCE

- Contact the **mairie** to confirm the **exact list of documents** required.
- Prepare **passports/IDs** for both spouses.
- Obtain a recent **French birth certificate** (≤ 3 months).
- Obtain a recent **German birth certificate** (≤ 6 months).
- Request the **Ehefähigkeitszeugnis (EFZ)** from German authorities (certificate of no impediment).
- If previously married → provide **divorce decree** or **death certificate**.
- Collect **proof of residence** in the French commune (utility bill, lease).
- Arrange **sworn French translations** of German documents, unless an **EU multilingual form** is available.
- File the **marriage application** at the mairie.
- Attend the **pre-marriage interview (audition)** if requested.
- Ensure **publication of banns** for **10 days**.
- Celebrate the **civil marriage ceremony** at the mairie with **2–4 witnesses**.
- Receive the **French marriage certificate** and **livret de famille**.

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GERMANY

- Contact the **Standesamt** where the marriage will be registered.
- Prepare **passports/IDs** for both spouses.
- Obtain a recent **German birth certificate** (≤ 6 months).
- Obtain a recent **French birth certificate** (≤ 3 months).
- Request the **Certificat de Capacité à Mariage (CCAM)** from the French Consulate in Germany.
- If the Standesamt requires an **EFZ** but France cannot issue it → the Standesamt will request an **OLG exemption (Befreiung)**.
- If previously married → provide **divorce decree** (foreign divorces outside EU must be **recognised in Germany**) or **death certificate**.
- Provide **proof of residence** in Germany.
- Arrange **sworn German translations** of French documents, unless using an **EU multilingual form**.
- File the **marriage registration (Anmeldung der Eheschließung)** at the Standesamt.
- Once approved, registration is **valid for 6 months** → book your ceremony within this period.
- Attend the **civil marriage ceremony** at the Standesamt.
- Obtain the **German marriage certificate (Eheurkunde)**.
- For French recognition → submit the German marriage certificate to the **French Consulate** or **SCEC Nantes** for **transcription**.

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Templates

This section provides **official resources and sample documents** commonly required :

Use the hyperlinks below to access the official template or instruction page.

1. France – Statutory Declaration / Attestation of Single Status

Often requested by French mairies when marrying a German citizen.

 [Access the Attestation sur l'honneur template \(Service-Public\)](#)

2. Germany – Ehefähigkeitszeugnis (Certificate of No Impediment)

Standard German document proving capacity to marry; required for marriages in France.

 germany.info/ehefaehigkeitszeugnis

3. France – Certificate of Capacity to Marry (CCAM)

Issued by French consulates abroad — needed for marriages in Germany.

 ma.consulfrance.org/ccam

4. France/Germany – Sworn Translator Directories

France and Germany both require sworn translators for legal document translations.

 service-public.fr/traducteurs

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Official Sources

TOPIC	NOTES	AUTHORITY / URL
SERVICE-PUBLIC FRANCE – MARRIAGE WITH A FOREIGNER	Official French government page explaining requirements when marrying a foreign national in France.	service-public.fr/marier-etranger
SERVICE-PUBLIC FRANCE – MARRIAGE CELEBRATED ABROAD (TRANSCRIPTION)	Guidance for French citizens to register a marriage celebrated in Germany into French civil records.	service-public.fr/transcrire-mariage
FRENCH CONSULATE IN GERMANY – MARRIAGE & CCAM	Consulate page detailing procedures for obtaining the Certificat de Capacité à Mariage (CCAM) .	ambafrance.de/mariage
GERMANY.INFO – MARRIAGE IN GERMANY (AUSWÄRTIGES AMT / GERMAN MISSIONS)	Official German government guidance on marrying in Germany, required documents, and EFZ.	germany.info/marriage-in-germany
STANDESAMT INFORMATION (BERLIN)	Local Standesamt instructions for registering a marriage (Anmeldung der Eheschließung).	germany.info/marriage-registration

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Glossary & Notes

TERM	DEFINITION / NOTES
BANNS	Public notice of intended marriage required in France . Must be posted at the mairie for 10 days before the ceremony. Abolished in Germany since 1998.
ANMELDUNG DER EHESCHLIEßUNG	The marriage registration at the Standesamt in Germany. Required before the ceremony, and valid for 6 months .
EHEFÄHIGKEITSZEUGNIS (EFZ)	German certificate of no impediment proving a person is free to marry. Often requested by French mairies. If unavailable, an OLG exemption can be granted.
OLG EXEMPTION (BEFREIUNG)	Exemption from providing an EFZ, granted by the Higher Regional Court (Oberlandesgericht) on application through the Standesamt.
CCAM (CERTIFICAT DE CAPACITÉ À MARIAGE)	French certificate of capacity to marry , issued by French consulates abroad. Required for French citizens marrying in Germany.
TRANSCRIPTION	The process of registering a foreign marriage in the French civil registry (via consulate or SCEC Nantes) to obtain a livret de famille .
LIVRET DE FAMILLE	Official French family record book delivered after transcription. Needed for visas, residence permits, and registering children.
NACHBEURKUNDUNG	Optional subsequent registration of a foreign marriage in Germany. Lets spouses obtain a German marriage certificate (Eheurkunde) .
NAME DECLARATION	In Germany, married names are not automatic ; spouses must file a name declaration at the Standesamt if they want a joint name. Since May 2025, double-barrelled names (max 2 parts) are allowed.

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Annexes

ANNEX	TITLE	FILE
MARRIAGE IN FRANCE WITH A FOREIGNER	Official French government page explaining documents and conditions for marrying a foreign national in France.	service-public.fr/marier-etranger
MARRIAGE ABROAD (TRANSCRIPTION)	Official procedure for French citizens to transcribe a foreign marriage (e.g., Germany) into French civil records.	service-public.fr/transcrire-mariage
FRENCH CONSULATE IN GERMANY – CCAM	Guidance on obtaining the Certificat de Capacité à Mariage before marrying in Germany.	de.ambafrance.org/mariage
GERMANY.INFO – MARRIAGE IN GERMANY	German government guidance for foreigners marrying in Germany, incl. EFZ and Standesamt process.	germany.info/marriage

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Legal Disclaimer & Thank You

This Cross-Border Marriage Kit has been carefully researched and compiled to provide practical guidance for international couples.

However, it does **not constitute legal advice**.

- Laws and procedures may change at any time.
- Requirements may vary depending on the specific **State** or **French municipality** involved.
- Always verify your situation directly with the **competent civil authorities**, embassies, or consulates before submitting documents.
- LexAtlas cannot be held liable for any administrative delays, changes in law, or outcomes arising from the use of this guide.

For complex or exceptional cases (previous marriages, immigration complications, name changes, adoption, or nationality issues), we strongly recommend consulting a qualified attorney or notary.

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