

Information for the parties to the marriage concerning verification of compliance with conditions for marriage

1. Verification of compliance with the conditions for marriage

Before a marriage may be contracted, it shall be verified that the conditions in the Norwegian Marriage Act have been fulfilled. Verification will be carried out by the National Population Register (Directorate of Taxes). Please consult: www.skatteetaten.no. Without such verification the marriage will not be valid.¹

2. Documentation

For the purpose of verifying whether the conditions for marriage have been fulfilled, the parties to the marriage must provide the following:

- A) Declarations** ² from both parties to the marriage (on the front of this form, Q-0150).
- B) Name and age:** If the parties to the marriage are resident in Norway, the National Population Register will check that the information given by the parties on their declaration is correct. In other cases, other satisfactory proof of name and age must normally be submitted, for example a passport, bank card or Norwegian or foreign birth certificate. Parties to the marriage who are not resident in Norway must submit a copy of their passport or a valid travel document.
- C) Declarations from the sponsors**, on form Q-0151. The sponsors must be 18 years of age or older.
- D) Previous marriage:** If the parties to the marriage have been married before, proof must be provided that the marriage has been terminated by death, divorce or dissolution (Section 24 of the Marriage Act). This does not apply if the divorce or death is registered in the National Population Register. Foreign divorce certificates or decrees must first be approved by the County governor. Approval is not normally required of a divorce certificate of decree from another Nordic country, when both parties are Nordic nationals. This also applies to a person who has previously entered into a registered partnership.
- E) Information about division of joint estate:** Any person who has been married previously and lived in a regime of marital property (joint estate) on the termination of the marriage must submit a *declaration* from his/her previous spouse, heirs or the Probate Court that the joint estate has been divided or that division is in progress. If the person to be married is in possession of an undivided estate from a previous cohabitation, a declaration must be obtained from the heir(s) of the previous cohabitant. The declaration must confirm that the estate has been divided or is being divided or that the heir(s) consent to his/her retention of the estate undivided. The declaration from the previous spouse or heirs that the joint estate has been divided may be given on a special form, Q-0160. This declaration is not required if it can be proven in some other manner that the joint estate has been divided or that division is in progress. If more than two years have passed since the marriage was dissolved and it was terminated in a way other than by death, a statement from the person in question that the joint estate has been divided will suffice. This also applies to a person who has previously entered into a registered partnership.
- F) Certificate of no impediment to marriage or similar documentation from a foreign national:** A foreign national who is not permanently resident in Norway must normally provide a certificate from a public authority in his/her home country stating that there is no impediment to his/her contracting marriage in Norway. The certificate must normally have an apostille stamp or be legalised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the issuing state.
- G) Lawful residence** A foreign national who intends to enter into marriage in Norway must prove documentation that he/she is lawfully resident in Norway. All foreign nationals who have a valid work permit, residential permit or settlement permit are in the country legally. There are also other legal grounds for residence.

- H) Free will:** It is laid down in the Norwegian Marriage Act that marriage must be entered into freely. A marriage that is not contracted freely may be annulled (Section 16 of the Marriage Act). The penalty for forcing someone to marriage is imprisonment for up to six years (Section 253 of the Penal Code). It also follows from the Marriage Act that both spouses have an equal right to divorce.

3. Certificate of no impediment to marriage

When the verification authority (see Item 1) finds that the parties to the marriage fulfil the conditions for marriage, the parties will be issued with a certificate stating that there is no impediment to their entering into marriage. The certificate of no impediment to marriage will normally be sent to the couple's address or it may be given to one of the persons in the couple after he or she has provided proof of identity. The solemniser must receive the certificate of no impediment before the marriage ceremony.

The certificate is valid for four months. If it is older than four months, compliance with the conditions for marriage will have to be reverified.

4. Marriage certificate

The National Population Register will issue a marriage certificate when it has received notification of the marriage. The couple may be given a temporary marriage certificate by the solemniser.

5. Name

If the parties to the marriage wish to change their names after marriage, they must send a notification of change of name (form GA-7700) to the National Population Register. The form is available from the verification authority or the solemniser. It can also be downloaded from <http://blanketter.dss.dep.no>.

The parties to the marriage may hand or send the form in with their declarations etc. They will then be issued with a marriage certificate with the new names after marriage. Norwegian citizens living abroad must normally apply to the authorities in their country of residence if they wish to change their names.

6. Information

More information about the contraction of marriage is to be found at www.regjeringen.no (in Norwegian only)

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1. In the case of persons who are living in Norway without being registered as residents, verification will be carried out by the National Population Register (Directorate of Taxes). When the parties to the marriage are living abroad, verification will normally be carried out by the National Population Register at one of the parties most recently registered place of residence in Norway. In the case of Norwegian citizens who have been allocated a personal identity number (for example for the issue of a passport) and who have never been registered as resident in Norway, verification will be carried out by the Central Office for Population Registration (Directorate of Taxes). Norwegian foreign missions only undertake verification for Norwegian citizens who have never been registered in the National Population Register (i.e. who have not been allocated a personal identity number) and who live permanently in the district covered by the foreign mission
 2. Section 3, first paragraph, of the Norwegian Marriage Act reads (in translation): Marriage may not be contracted between relatives in direct line of ascent or descent or between brothers and sisters.

With regard to adopted children, the prohibition applies to both the natural relatives and the adoptive parents and their relatives. If the adopted child has been adopted anew, the County Governor may, however, consent to a marriage between the adopted child and one of the original adoptive parents or a relative of the latter.