



# Legal Requirements

## GENERAL

When you marry in Mexico, the emphasis is on the event, not the requirements. Getting married in Mexico is easy, and we are here to help every step of the way! There are two main types of wedding ceremonies that can be performed in Mexico: Legal and Symbolic.

**Brides and Grooms:** Please remember, the bride, groom and 4 witness' will need to arrive 3 full business days before the wedding. *The additional cost of \$945 USD will be required for the judge, marriage license and blood work.*

## LEGAL CEREMONY

A legal ceremony, also referred to as a civil ceremony, is only performed by a Judge and is available 6 days a week (Monday-Saturday). Once you have legalized your marriage in Mexico through the ceremony, you must legalize your marriage in your country of birth/residence if you want it to be recognized once you return home. You do this by registering your marriage certificate at your local City Hall after receiving your marriage certificate.

## LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

**Valid Passport:** Passports are required to enter Mexico and are also mandatory for a legal wedding to be performed. Passports must be presented to the on-site wedding team at the time of the wedding consultation.

**Tourist Card:** These are provided to you on the airplane prior to arrival into the Cancun International Airport. Names on the tourist card and passport MUST be the same – please remember this when filling out the tourist cards.

**Advanced Hotel Stay:** Bride and Groom must arrive at the hotel three (3) business days prior to the legal wedding ceremony date in order to complete the blood tests and process the necessary documents. Saturday and Sunday are not considered business days.

## READY TO GET MARRIED IN MEXICO!

**Civil Ceremony Form:** A civil ceremony form must be completed (your wedding coordinator will be happy to send you a copy) indicating witnesses name, age, nationality, home address and occupation.

**Divorced Groom:** If the groom is divorced, no additional documentation is needed.

**Divorced Bride:** If the bride is divorced (and she must be divorced at least one year at the time of the wedding in order to remarry) and her passport is in her maiden name no additional documentation is needed. However, if the bride is divorced and her passport is under her ex-husband's last name, she must present her Birth Certificate and Divorce Certificate translated into Spanish by an Official Translator and with an Apostille Seal. The Apostille Seal is necessary when issuing a document from one country to another for legal purposes. For information on how to obtain the Apostille Seal, please contact the Secretary of State Office or visit: [http://travel.state.gov/law/judicial/judicial\\_2545.html](http://travel.state.gov/law/judicial/judicial_2545.html)

**Deceased Former Spouse:** If a bride or groom's former spouse is deceased then a copy of the Death Certificate is required.

**Health Certificate:** Mexican laws require a Health Certificate for all legal wedding ceremonies. Blood tests are done to determine blood type, HIV and STD status. Tests must be taken at Royalton Riviera Cancun and results are ready within 24 hours. The approximate cost for the blood tests is \$350 USD per couple. Don't worry – this is perfectly safe and our staff will take good care of you.

**Witnesses:** Legal wedding ceremonies require four (4) witnesses. We can certainly provide witnesses if need be at no additional cost. If you choose to provide your own witnesses, the following will be required from each witness:

- Valid passport or driver's license
- Tourist card

- Witnesses must arrive at the hotel three (3) business days prior to the legal wedding ceremony date (just like the bride and groom) in order to complete the legal documentation process and be present during the onsite meeting between the bride, groom and wedding team
- Witnesses must be at least 18 years of age at the time of the ceremony

**Validity:** Your Marriage Certificate will be valid world-wide, BUT you should get your certificate 'legalized' in Mexico to ensure it is legally accepted when you get back home. Most countries require that all Weddings Certificates from ceremonies performed in the Caribbean, including Mexico, have the Apostille Seal. This procedure can be done by our Wedding Department for an additional fee of \$441 USD. By requesting this service you receive: an extra copy of your wedding certificate, the apostille seal, and translation into English and FedEx delivery to your home address, usually within 90 days after the ceremony.