



REĠISTRU PUBBLIKU - TAQSIMA TAN-NOTIFIKA LOKALI U BARRANIN
PUBLIC REGISTRY - LOCAL & FOREIGN NOTIFICATIONS SECTION

GUIDELINES REGARDING THE REGISTRATION OF A FOREIGN ACT OF MARRIAGE

In order to register a foreign Act of Marriage, one must obtain the following documents:

1. The **Certificate of Maltese Citizenship** issued from 10th February 2000 onwards or the original letter of dual citizenship. If the latter is not available, the Applicant needs to provide the documents listed on the document from Aġenzija Komunità Malta.
2. **An original or a true copy¹ of the original Act of Marriage issued from the competent authority which in most countries is referred to as the Civil Registry Office. Original certificates are retained by the Public Registry Unit.**

The original marriage certificate itself would need to be either:

- I. Apostilled ² ; or
 - II. Legalised ³.
3. On the 16th February 2019, EU Regulation 2016/1191 came into force and hence any certificate presented that is issued by a European Union component authority must be accepted without the need of an apostille.

Please note that:

- Certificates issued from religious entities will not be accepted.
 - Certified copies endorsed by legal persons will not be accepted.
4. Any document/s that are not issued in the English language or in the multilingual version, must be accompanied by an official translation into English, including certifications or stamps. The translation would need to be executed by an official translator i.e. a translator who is recognised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. If done abroad, it has to be apostilled or legalised in order to confirm the translator's signature. Preferably, it is suggested that an international or a multilingual certificate would be obtained where possible, as translations would not be required in such scenario.
 5. In order to overcome language barriers, at the request of the EU citizen a multi-lingual standard form may be issued to accompany the certificate as a translation aid and therefore a full translation may not be required.
 6. A certified translation carried out by a person qualified to do so under the law of a Member State shall be accepted in all Member States. The lists of qualified translators, in accordance with national law, to carry out certified translations can be verified at https://e-justice.europa.eu/content_find_a_legal_translator_or_an_interpreter-116-en.do
 7. In the case of there being another marriage/civil union that was previously registered in Malta, a divorce/annulment decree has to be first annotated on the said act of marriage prior to registering the second marriage.
 8. In the case of previous marriages / civil unions/ divorces/ annulments which were not registered in Malta, originals or certified true copies of the original certificates would be required as supporting documentation.

¹ A true copy of the marriage certificate is only accepted if it is **signed and stamped as a true copy by the same competent authority** that issues such Acts from that country.

² If the country from which the certificate was issued is a contracting state to the Apostille Convention, then the original certificate or the true copy would require an Apostille from the issuing country.

³ If the country from which the certificate was issued is not party to the Apostille Convention, then legalisation would be required on the original certificate or the true copy. To be legalised, the certificate has to be first endorsed from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the issuing country and then, it has to be counter-legalised by duly authorised Maltese representations found in that same country.

⁴ As pointed out in point number 4 above, an original official translation will be required if such document is not issued in the English language or in the multilingual version.

9. If the marriage was celebrated in a country where polygamous marriages are allowed, the groom has to obtain one of the following documents :
- I. A free status certificate ⁴ dated prior to the marriage to be registered (valid at that point in time of marriage),
or
 - II. A copy of his family register ⁴ indicating that he has only one spouse.

Regulations on how to proceed with Marriage registrations, once these documents are attained

- One/both of the parties in marriage may come in person to the Public Registry – Local and Foreign Notification Section Office in order to register the marriage.
- A close friend or family member in possession of the above-mentioned required documents may come to the Public Registry – Local and Foreign Notification Section Office in the applicants' stead.

A Sworn Declaration form will be provided at the Local and Foreign Notification Section Office, requesting the applicant/s to make declarations regarding:

- o Surnames after marriage;
 - Supporting documentation with regards to surnames after marriage is required (e.g. national ID cards, passports, residence permits or other official documentation).
- o Any previous marriages/ civil union.
 - In the case of marriages/ civil unions previously registered in Malta, a divorce/ annulment decree has to be first annotated on the said act of marriage/ civil union prior to registering the current marriage.
 - In the case of previous marriage(s) and/or civil union(s) and subsequent divorce(s) and/or annulment(s) which took place abroad and were never registered in Malta, supporting documentation is requested (e.g. previous marriage certificate, divorce certificate or decree annulments, death certificates, etc.).

Furthermore, in cases where the information on the marriage certificate is handwritten and/or unreadable, the applicant may also be requested to fill in and sign a form in order to confirm such information and ensure that the marriage registration will correspond with the provided marriage certificate, as per regulations.

- This registration process can also be done through a **Maltese Embassy**. Please contact the relevant Embassy to check which documents would be required from their end.

Contact Details:

Should it be required the Applicant may contact the Citizenship Unit, Aġenzija Komunità Malta on citizenship@gov.mt.

The Citizenship Unit's opening hours are the following:

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 07:30 until 11:30

The applicant may contact the Public Registry on publicregistry.identita@gov.mt.

The Public Registry's opening hours are the following:

- Monday to Friday from 07.30 until 14.00
- Wednesday from 07:30 until 14:00 and 15.00 until 18.00
- Saturday from 07:30 until 11:00

Fees of Registration:

- The charge of registering the foreign Marriage is €2.60.