

Key Documents International Couples Need to Legally Marry in Portugal



General Requirements

Unless otherwise stated, all documents must be issued within the last 6 months.

Documents must also meet the following requirements:

- Apostille (Hague Apostille) is required for documents issued outside Portugal.
- Certified translation into Portuguese is required if the documents are not in Portuguese.

Note: Valid passports or EU citizen ID cards are exempt from the 6-month issuance requirement.

1. Valid Passports

Both partners must present valid passports. If you are citizens of a European Union country, you may present a national ID card instead.

2. Birth Certificates

Both partners must provide full birth certificates, including the complete names of both parents.

3. Certificate of No Impediment (Single Status Certificate)

This document proves that you are legally free to marry.

Depending on your country, it may be called:

- Certificate of No Impediment
- Single Status Certificate
- Certificate of Freedom to Marry

4. Divorce or Death Certificate (if applicable)

If either partner was previously married, you must provide:

- Final divorce decree, or
- Death certificate of the former spouse

5. Marriage Application in Portugal

Before the wedding, you must open the marriage process at a Portuguese Civil Registry Office (Conservatória do Registo Civil).

This can be done:

- In person in Portugal
- Or sometimes through a lawyer or wedding planner

6. Witnesses

You may need two witnesses, depending on the registry office and the type of ceremony.

7. Interpreter for the Civil Ceremony (Legal Requirement)

If either member of the couple does not speak Portuguese, an interpreter is legally required during the civil ceremony.

The interpreter must provide full live translation of the legal ceremony performed by the civil registrar.

The documents listed above reflect the general requirements. Depending on the specific circumstances of each couple, additional documentation or certifications may be required by the Portuguese Civil Registry.