

THE WHITE EDIT

OUR FULL GUIDE TO GETTING MARRIED IN CYPRUS

You can legally marry in Cyprus, in either a Civil wedding ceremony or an Anglican religious ceremony. Catholic religious ceremonies are not legally recognised in Cyprus and require a civil ceremony to take place first. Alternatively, to avoid the legalities and paperwork involved, couples can have a low-key civil ceremony at a registry office in the UK to fulfil the legal requirements followed by a Wedding Blessing/Humanist Ceremony in Cyprus at a venue of their choice.

Civil Ceremony

In Cyprus, civil ceremonies take place at the town hall or other authorised venue. A venue may become 'authorised' by paying a fee and obtaining a licence. If the relevant paperwork is completed and fee paid you are free to marry wherever you wish.

You can have a civil ceremony if...

- You have been resident in Cyprus for 3 clear business days prior to your wedding ceremony.

The same rules apply to same-sex couples who wish to have a civil partnership ceremony. Same sex couples cannot legally marry in Cyprus.

Religious Ceremony

You can have a religious ceremony if...

- - You wish to have an Anglican wedding and can provide a Baptismal certificate and details of the church you attend at home (in addition to the paperwork required for a civil marriage license).

Catholic religious ceremonies are not legally recognised in Cyprus and require you to have a civil ceremony first in order for your marriage to be legally binding.

Wedding Blessing / Humanist Ceremony

The private, non-denominational, non-institutional nature of a Wedding Blessing or Humanist Ceremony gives you the flexibility to marry when, where and how you want. There is no legal requirement for the ceremony to take place in a licensed building. Therefore, you can hold your ceremony wherever you like —at your favourite restaurant, in a private villa, on a secluded beach or in the middle of an olive grove. The choice really is yours. There is no legal requirement for the ceremony to follow a set structure so it can be as formal or informal as you like — you can have a traditional Church Ceremony with the religious parts replaced with readings and vows or you can have a light-hearted ceremony with humorous readings and vows. Once again, the choice is yours. These ceremonies are usually performed by a celebrant who will be able to help you select the style, structure, readings, music and vows that reflect your tastes and feelings as a couple resulting in a highly personalised and unique, non-religious ceremony.

Please note: If you do choose to have a Wedding Blessing or Humanist Ceremony you will also need to have an official civil ceremony in order for your marriage to be legally binding.

Civil Ceremony

You can legally marry in Cyprus, in either a Civil wedding ceremony or an Anglican religious ceremony. Catholic religious ceremonies are not legally recognised in Cyprus and require a civil ceremony to take place first. Alternatively, to avoid the legalities and paperwork involved, couples can have a low-key civil ceremony at a registry office in the UK (to fulfil the legal requirements) followed by a Wedding Blessing/Humanist Ceremony in Cyprus at a venue of their choice.

Civil ceremonies take place at a town hall or other authorised venue. A venue may become 'authorised' by paying a fee and obtaining a licence. So, if the relevant paperwork is completed and fee paid, you are free to marry wherever you wish. And with so many beautiful beaches and great weather, many couples obviously choose to marry outdoors.

The only residency requirement is proof of residency in Cyprus for 3 clear business days prior to your wedding ceremony.

The process:

1. Make an application in person to the marriage officer in the municipality of your choice, providing all the required documentation. The Union of Cyprus Municipalities www.ucm.org.cy provides information on the process.

*** The same rules apply to both foreigners and expats living in Cyprus ***

You will probably require the following documentation:

- A CNI or equivalent from your home country. This document confirms you are not married in your home country and there are no other impediments to the marriage.

Please Note: This is not required for UK citizens as the UK doesn't issue CNIs for marriages in Commonwealth countries. Non-UK citizens can click [here](#) for details on how to obtain the relevant certificate from their home country.

- Birth certificate (long form version)
- A valid passport (with a minimum of 6 months validity).
- A photocopy (or perhaps 2... just in case!) of both the bride and groom's passport.
- You will require two witnesses for the ceremony and will need to provide their names, addresses, occupations and photocopies of their passports.

- If you are widowed, you must provide both your previous marriage certificate and the death certificate of your husband/wife.
- If you are divorced or your marriage was annulled, you must provide the relevant certificates.
- A sworn affidavit or statutory declaration from a solicitor, Commissioner for Oaths or notary public in the UK. The document should be on headed company paper and use the wording "Solicitor" or "notary public".

Please note: Documents issued outside of Cyprus must have a Hague Apostille from the relevant issuing office in your country of residence (For UK issued documents go to www.gov.uk/get-document-legalised). If the name on any of your documents doesn't appear exactly as it does on your birth certificate, you will need to provide the Cypriot marriage authorities with evidence of your name change (Eg. adoption certificate; marriage certificate; deed poll). If you fail to do this, the authorities may refuse to allow the marriage to go ahead.

- 2.** Your wedding must take place between 15 days and 3 months of the application being made. (After 3 months your application is considered void) In order to make your application and fulfil this requirement you may need to stay in Cyprus for an extended period. Alternatively, you can pay the fee for a 'special license' which allows you to marry within 3 business days.
- 3.** You will require 2 witnesses for the ceremony.
- 4.** The marriage ceremony will be conducted in English.
- 5.** Once the ceremony has taken place, the marriage officer sends a certified copy of the marriage certificate to the embassy of your home country in Cyprus.

The above process also applies to same-sex couples who wish to have a civil partnership ceremony.



Religious Ceremony

If you wish to have an Anglican wedding and can provide a Baptismal certificate and details of the church you attend at home (in addition to the paperwork required for a civil marriage license). The Anglican wedding service in Cyprus is similar to the service conducted in churches in the UK and is legally binding for British citizens.

**** Anglican ceremonies can be performed in a range of venues, not just churches.****

If you wish to have a Catholic religious ceremony in Cyprus, you will need to have a civil ceremony first, in order for your marriage to be legally binding.

The process:

- 1.** Make an application in person to the marriage officer in the municipality of your choice, providing all the required documentation. (as for Civil Ceremony above) The Union of Cyprus Municipalities www.ucm.org.cy provides information on the process.
- 2.** Contact the registered minister of the church where you would like the ceremony to take place to make the extra arrangements required for a religious ceremony.

You will probably require the following documentation:

- Baptism Certificate issued from the parish of your baptism.
- A CNI or equivalent from your home country. This document confirms you are not married in your home country and there are no other impediments to the marriage.

Please Note: This is not required for UK citizens as the UK doesn't issue CNIs for marriages in Commonwealth countries.

- Birth certificate (long form version).
- A valid passport (with a minimum of 6 months validity).
- A photocopy (or perhaps 2... just in case!) of the photo page of both.
- A photocopy of the photo page of 2 witnesses for the ceremony and details of their home address and occupation.
- If you are widowed, you must provide both your previous marriage certificate and the death certificate of your husband/wife.
- If you are divorced or your marriage was annulled, you must provide the relevant certificates.
- A sworn affidavit or statutory declaration from a solicitor, Commissioner for Oaths or notary public in the UK. The document should be on headed company paper and use the wording "Solicitor" or "notary public".

Please note: Documents issued outside of Cyprus must have a Hague Apostille from the relevant issuing office in your country of residence (For UK issued documents go to www.gov.uk/get-document-legalised). |

If the name on any of your documents doesn't appear exactly as it does on your birth certificate, you will need to provide the Cypriot marriage authorities with evidence of your name change (Eg. adoption certificate; marriage certificate; deed poll). If you fail to do this, the authorities may refuse to allow the marriage to go ahead.

- Your wedding must take place between 15 days and 3 months of the application being made. (After 3 months your application is considered void) In order to make your application and fulfil this requirement you may need to stay in Cyprus for an extended period. Alternatively, you can pay the fee for a 'special license' which allows you to marry within 3 business days.

Some couples choose to have a low-key civil ceremony at a registry office in the UK to fulfil the legal requirements, followed by a Wedding Blessing/Humanist Ceremony in Cyprus — regarding this as their actual 'Wedding Day' — where they share vows and exchange rings in the presence of their friends and family.

Wedding Blessing / Humanist Ceremony

The private, non-denominational, non-institutional nature of a Wedding Blessing or Humanist Ceremony gives you the flexibility to marry when, where and how you want. There is no legal requirement for the ceremony to take place in a licensed building. Therefore, you can hold your ceremony wherever you like—at your favourite restaurant, in a private villa, on a secluded beach or in the middle of an olive grove. The choice is yours. There is no legal requirement for the ceremony to follow a set structure so it can be as formal or informal as you like — you can have a traditional Church Ceremony with the religious parts replaced with readings and vows or you can have a light-hearted ceremony with humorous readings and vows. Once again, the choice is yours. These ceremonies are usually performed by a celebrant who will be able to help you select the style, structure, readings, music and vows that reflect your tastes and feelings as a couple resulting in a highly personalised and unique, non-religious ceremony.

Please note: If you do choose to have a Wedding Blessing or Humanist Ceremony you will also need to have an official civil ceremony in order for your marriage to be legally binding.

*** Although we have done our best to ensure the information above is correct, please note it is intended only as a guideline and should not be regarded as legal advice. ***

