

Foreigners considering marrying an Egyptian citizen should learn about Egyptian family law aka personal status laws. "Especially for women, their rights as both spouse and parent would be very different in Egypt from those in other countries, as would the rights of any children resulting from the marriage."

ID Requirement and Ceremony:

Proof of citizenship or a valid passport. All documents need to be translated into Arabic. You need to have two male witnesses who have identification papers with you when you apply for the marriage license.

There is no residency requirement.

Waiting Period:

There is a three months waiting period if you've been divorced.

If you are a widow, you will need to wait four months and ten days.

Previous Marriages:

You will need to show proof of termination of any previous marriages. The original or certified copy of the divorce decree must be authenticated.

Medical Exam:

Sometimes a routine medical examination by an Egyptian physician is required.

Interfaith Marriages:

Interfaith marriages are allowed except if the bride is Muslim and the groom has a different faith.

Under 18:

If either of you are under the age of 18, parental consent is required.

Polygamy:

Yes. Although less than 3% of Egyptian men have multiple wives, a law passed in 1985 allows a man to have four wives.

In 2000, a new law was passed that permits a man and woman to agree via a signed contract that the husband may not have more than one wife.

Proxy Marriages:

No.

Same Sex Marriages:

No.

Cousin Marriages:

Yes.

Islamic Marriage in Egypt:

Couples must have:

- Consent of both families to the marriage.
- Consent of both the bride and groom to the marriage.
- The groom must have financial means to support a wife and family by providing a furnished apartment.
- Bride accompanied by her guardian when she signs the marriage contract.
- Presence of witnesses.
- Payment of the bride's wedding gift.
- Public declaration of the marriage.

PLEASE NOTE:

Marriage license requirements often change. The above information is for guidance only and should not be regarded as legal advice.

It is important that you verify ALL information with our office before making any wedding or travel plans.

For US Citizens Wishing to Marry in Egypt

Americans wishing to marry in Egypt must take the following steps in order to marry:

Step 1: Visit the American Citizen Services, U.S. Embassy

Address: 5, Tawfik Diab Street (formerly Latin America Street), Garden City, Cairo.

Appointments: <http://egypt.usembassy.gov/consular/appntmnt.html>

At American Citizen Services, you will sign a marriage affidavit that will be notarized by the U.S. Embassy. This affidavit includes your biographic data and your religion. Interfaith marriages are permitted by Egyptian law except in the case of a Muslim woman and a non-Muslim man. The affidavit also mentions that you are free to marry and that the Embassy has no objection to the marriage. Please bring the following:

- Printout of your appointment confirmation.
- Your valid American passport.
- Proof of termination of your last marriage, if you were married before. An **original** or **certified copy** of the last divorce decree or death certificate must be submitted. There is no need to get this document authenticated or translated into Arabic for the purpose of marriage. The authentication and translation by the Egyptian embassy or consulate in the U.S. may be required later for other purposes. Please note that if you are a female American citizen

previously married, you may only remarry in Egypt at least 90 days after your divorce or 130 days after the death of your former spouse. If you are pregnant, you can only remarry after the birth of the baby.

- It is preferable that you bring your fiancé(e).
- The fee is \$50.00 or 300.00 LE (cash or credit).
- If you are a female of Egyptian origin under the age of 21, you are required to either be accompanied by your father, a guardian, a person in loco parentis, or a written consent from any of the above. The consent should be in English and Arabic. It should be notarized by the Egyptian Embassy or an Egyptian consulate in the U.S. and by the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Egypt.

NOTE: If two American citizens are getting married, they each need separate statements.

Step 2: After obtaining the notarized statement from the U.S. Embassy, you must visit one of the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Authentication Offices in Cairo or in Alexandria.

Step 3: After obtaining the certification from the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, you must visit the Egyptian Ministry of Justice in Cairo or Alexandria.

The Ministry of Justice will register your marriage. Forms to be completed at the marriage court can only be obtained on the wedding day or the day before. The following are required:

- Proof of identity (a passport) for both parties, two photocopies of the passport data page, the Egyptian entry visa and the residency stamp (US citizens who bought visas at the airport should approach the Egyptian Immigration Authority in Mogamaa, first floor window no. one and get a residency stamp on their passports for no cost before go through marriage procedures).
- Egyptian I.D. (Egyptian passport or the National ID) and two photocopies of it if one of the parties is Egyptian
- Five personal photos for each party.
- A 50.00LE "Ta'meen Igtimaei" or "Tabe Zawag" stamp (purchased at any Egyptian post office)
- Two male witnesses with identification documents (passport or I.D. card) must be present to sign the marriage documents. You are required to bring your own witnesses, such as friends or travel agents.
- A Certified Translator
- Original proof of termination of previous marriage if you were married before (may be requested by official). No authentication or translation is required.
- A pre-marriage medical examination at a government hospital is required for both parties. Certificates are issue to the parties for submission to the marriage office.

It will take at least ten business days for a marriage certificate to be issued by the Ministry of Justice. The marriage certificate must be picked up by one of the parties.

To use the marriage certificate in the U.S., it should be translated into English by a certified translator or translation office. The fee is 150 LE for each page. It takes 1-2 days to receive the translation.

Please note: You **DO NOT** need to have the marriage certificate authenticated at the American Embassy to use for immigration in the United States.