



## *Legal Requirements: Catholic Wedding*

### **The Church requires:**

- ❖ **Original Full Length Birth Certificate** for both Bride and Groom showing:  
Couple's Name & Surname, Father's & Mother's Name & Surname, Mother's Maiden Surname, Date & Place of Birth, and Nationality
- ❖ **A Baptism Certificate.** This document should be requested and dated close to your wedding date.
- ❖ **A Confirmation Certificate.**
- ❖ **Letter of Freedom** from your own diocese in your own country .**This “Freedom to Marry” Certificate**, document is the assurance that you are free from any canonical impediment for marriage.
  - a) These certificates must be obtained from the parish priest in whom you were baptized.
  - b) If the date of your confirmation is not written in the parish in which you were baptized, you should ask for it in the same parish in which you were confirmed.
  - c) Take these certificates to your present parish priest who should make the prenuptial inquiries and catechetical instruction.
- ❖ **Written permission** must be obtained from your Bishop to have your marriage performed out of your parish and here in Crete. This is according to Canon 1115 of the Codex Juris Canonici. Please discuss with your pastor.
- ❖ **Certificate** stating you have completed the "**PRE-CANA**" instruction class, retreat or meetings, ( marriage preparation course)
- ❖ **Letter of Dispensation** in the case of a Catholic marrying a non-Catholic

### **The State requires:**

- ❖ **Original Full Length Birth Certificate** for both Bride and Groom showing:  
Couple's Name & Surname, Father's & Mother's Name & Surname, Mother's Maiden Surname, Date & Place of Birth, and Nationality
- ❖ **If there has been a change of name by either party, a copy of the Deed Poll Certificate is required** (Please note that if either party is divorced a marriage in the Catholic Church is not possible.)

**(NOTE: ALL DOCUMENTS REQUIRED BY THE STATE MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY LEGALIZED TRANSLATIONS AND HAVE APOSTILLE AFFIXED TO THE DOCUMENT AND THE TRANSLATION)**

*After the wedding ceremony the couple must register the marriage in the Registry Office of Chania .  
In order to do this they will need to have with them the following:*

- 1) All documents as mentioned above as being required by the state*
- 2) The marriage certificate signed by the officiating priest and bearing the official stamp of the church*
- 3) The passports of the couple*
- 4) Photocopies of the passports of the couple*

***IMPORTANT INFORMATION:***

*\*\* All Documents MUST be faxed or sent to us at least 1 month prior to your arrival. At that time we will review the faxed papers with the priest in order to assess whether or not all documents are in order.*

*\* Upon confirmation from the priest that all documents are in order, then you will need to courier/FedEx all original documents (in English & Greek) to us. For your safety, please send all documents by courier or registered mail ONLY.*

*\* Please note that for ALL Catholic weddings, the couple must be on the island at least 3 working days prior to the wedding date (to meet with priest) and sign relevant applications and stay at least 3 working day after the wedding date . No other stay requirements.*

***translation to Greek \****

*\* All documents require to be translated ONLY by Greek authorities, such as the Greek Consulate or Embassy (in your city or country) , the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Local Lawyers Associations (at the destination point). An independent translator with notary stamp IS NOT accepted by the church. All translators should be approved by the Greek Consulate or Embassy.*

***\* Translation Services can as well be provided by us, all you need to do is obtain your documents from the relevant offices, Legalize them with the Apostile Stamp, and then leave everything else to us!***

*- Please contact us for more information re. Procedure & Process -*