



Legal Requirements: Greek Orthodox 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*
- ❖ *From the Greek Orthodox Church, a certificate to give consent and the freedom to marry (Otherwise known as the Letter of Celibacy). This document should be given in Greek and is signed & stamped from the priest of your parish thus there should be no need for translation.
Validation of this document for the authenticity of the priests' signature MUST be obtained from the Bishop of the local church.
Baptismal Certificates for both of you, signed & stamped by the parish priest.
If not given in Greek, must be translated to Greek **
- ❖ *Validation of this document for the authenticity of the priests' signature MUST be obtained from the Bishop of the local church.*
- ❖ *Divorce certificate/decreed if any. Certificate to be obtained from the judge AND from the Church if you had a previous Greek Orthodox wedding.*
- ❖ *The divorce decree requires translation to Greek **
- ❖ *You will both have to sign a paper in a notary office that your children will become Greek Orthodox. (Certificate of Faith). Document must be in Greek **
- ❖ *Single status letter/Letter of No Impediment (from your local registrar's office/town hall) for each of you or marriage license. The Letters/Marriage license requires translation to Greek **
- ❖ *A Legalized by the Church or State Certificate that states that the couple has no relative bonds between them until 2nd degree.*

The State requires:

*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) The marriage certificate signed by the officiating priest and bearing the official stamp of the church*
- 2) The passports-Visa of the couple*
- 3) Photocopies of the passports of the couple*

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- ❖ *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 Greek Orthodox 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.
- ❖ No more than a total of three marriages will be allowed by the Church.
- ❖ When one or both of the parties are divorced, they must obtain an ecclesiastical divorce as well in order to marry again in the Church.
- ❖ In the case of a mixed marriage, the non-Orthodox partner must be a Christian who has been baptized in the name of the Holy Trinity. A marriage cannot take place in the Orthodox Church between an Orthodox Christian and a non-Christian.
- ❖ In the case of mixed marriages between an Orthodox Christian and a non-Orthodox Christian, the marriage must be celebrated by an Orthodox priest in the Orthodox Church according to the Orthodox tradition.
- ❖ The Sponsor (Koumbaros or Koumbara) must be an Orthodox Christian in good standing with the Church.

Days when marriage is not permitted

- ❖ Great Lent and Holy Week
- ❖ August 1-15
- ❖ September 14 (Elevation of the Holy Cross)
- ❖ 40 days (feast days) before December 25th

NOTE: Exceptions to the above can only be made by special permission of the Bishop of the Diocese.

The following are necessary for the ceremony

- ❖ Rings for the bride and groom.
- ❖ Stefana (crowns)
- ❖ 2 white candles.

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 -