



## Legal formalities for marriage in the Seychelles



## Seychelles Marriage Regulations

The enormous diversity of the Seychelles Islands provides an idyllic backdrop for a tropical marriage, in an environment of breathtaking natural beauty, with the welcoming smile of the friendly people of Seychelles, and a romantic ambience whose memory will live in your mind forever. And what's more... the Seychelles vows are simple and effortless!

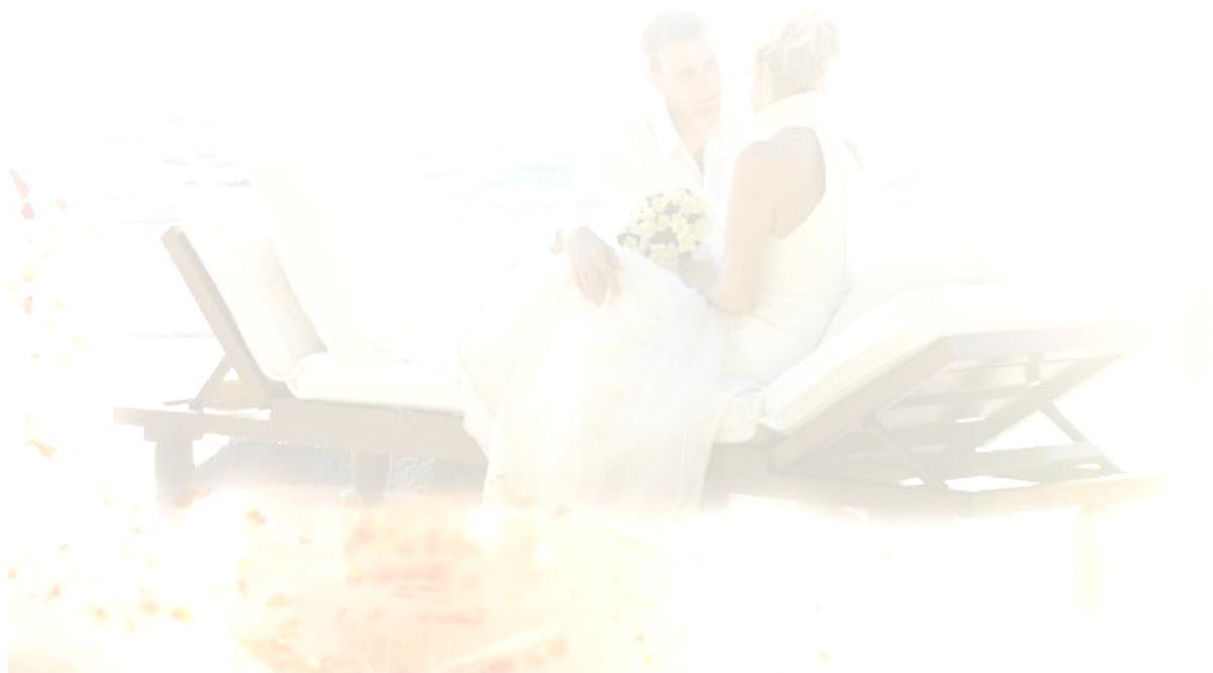
The Seychelles Tourism Board (STB), with the assistance of the Civil Status Office, has produced the following document as a useful guide for couples to have all the requirements needed to organise a civil marriage.

It includes a list of the documents required by the Civil Service Office and contact details of some authorities.

We hope that the information in this document will help you to prepare and organise your special day in Seychelles.

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*Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this document, Seychelles.com assumes no responsibility for any errors or omissions. The information is subject to change without notice and you should seek confirmation from the authorities concerned.*



## Legal Provisions - Marriages in the Seychelles

1. A church marriage without a civil marriage is not recognised as legally valid. The parties involved must therefore perform a civil marriage before the church ceremony.
2. Persons wishing to organise their own marriage must apply to the Seychelles Civil Status Office in Victoria on the island of Mahé for a civil marriage, and to the appropriate church institute for a religious marriage.
3. It is recommended that the marriage be planned at least two months in advance to allow for the processing of the documents.
4. Couples must notify the Civil Status Office of their marriage at least eleven calendar days in advance. However, this eleven-day period can be waived by applying for a special license, which is usually granted for a fee within two days of the date of application.
5. The couple must be present in the Seychelles at least 2 days before the civil marriage.
6. Civil marriages can be made on the hotel premises with the permission of the hotel and the registrar. Marriages outside the hotel grounds can only be performed in private and officially licensed places. Permission must be obtained from the registrar.
7. Marriages may also be entered into on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, between 0900 and 1100 hours, in the presence of two witnesses provided by the parties themselves, at the Civil Status Office.
8. Couples who wish to marry outside the Civil Status Office have to pay a fee. This fee applies to ceremonies held on any day of the week on Mahé or any of the inner islands. The inner islands include the islands: Anonymous, Bird, Cerf, Cousin, Denis, Frégate, La Digue, Moyenne, North, Praslin, Round, Ste. Anne and Silhouette. However, the Civil Status Office also has officials on the islands of Praslin and La Digue.
9. Couples who wish to marry on the outer islands, including Alphonse or Desroches, have to pay a different fee and the cost of transporting the registrar to these islands.
10. A fee is charged for ceremonies held after 1700 hours on a weekday or on a Saturday or Sunday.
11. Marriages legally contracted in the Seychelles are recognised under European law.

12. There are no nationality requirements to be met.
13. A special stamp (apostille) is required for all nationalities, except British nationals, to validate the marriage certificate obtained after the civil marriage. This stamp is available for a fee of SCR 250 from the Registrar's office in the Supreme Court building.
14. The couple must present the following documents:
  - birth certificate or a certified copy thereof
  - If one of the parties is divorced, the divorce certificate must be presented
  - If one of the parties is a widow or widower, the death certificate of the former spouse must be presented
  - Legally valid proof in case of a change of name
  - Copies of the first two pages of the valid passports of both parties
  - A document showing that there is no impediment to the intended marriage (if this cannot be obtained, a declaration on oath must be signed in the Seychelles after a solemn declaration to this effect has been made)
15. All the above-mentioned documents must be either originals or copies duly certified as being true copies before departure from the country of origin and must be translated into either English or French if the translation has not already been done.
16. For details regarding the various fees mentioned, please contact the Seychelles Civil Status Office directly.
17. French law requires that French nationals who wish to marry abroad must follow certain measures. For information on this, please contact your local government or the Seychelles Civil Status Office or the French Embassy in Seychelles.

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Closed on weekends and public holidays