



GETTING MARRIED ABROAD

Nowadays, many Québec couples are choosing to get married abroad, with “sun destinations” being their preferred location. Be it Cuba, Mexico, the Dominican Republic or anywhere else in the world, one question remains: Is a marriage performed abroad valid in Québec?

Under certain conditions, the marriage of two Quebecers abroad will be valid. First, the formalities for marriage in the country in which the marriage is taking place must be respected, such as the spouses’ capacity to marry and the presence of witnesses. The conditions set out in Québec and Canadian laws must also be respected:

- The future spouses must be at least 16 years old;
- The future spouses must be in a position to give a free and enlightened consent;
- The future spouses must be free of any marital bonds. If one of them was previously married, that marriage must have been dissolved through divorce, death or annulment; and
- The future spouses must not be relatives. Thus, marriage is prohibited between a father and child, a mother and child, a brother and sister, a half-brother and half-sister, and a grandparent and grandchild.

If these requirements are satisfied, a marriage performed abroad will automatically be recognized and will result in the same rights and obligations as if it had been performed in Québec.

However, it is strongly recommended that the new spouses file an application for insertion in Québec’s register of civil status of the marriage certificate they obtained abroad. A form for doing so is available at any office of the Registrar of civil status or online at the following address:

www.etatcivil.gouv.qc.ca/en/insertion-act.html

Text prepared by
M^e Caroline Simard,
Lawyer at
the Jonquière
legal aid office

Contact Us

Commission des
services juridiques
Communications Department
2 Complexe Desjardins
East Tower
Suite 1404
P.O. Box 123
Succursale Desjardins
Montreal, Québec
H5B 1B3

Telephone: (514) 873-3562
Fax: (514) 873-7046

www.csj.qc.ca

* The information set out in this document is not a legal interpretation.

The masculine gender is used to designate persons solely in order to simplify the text.