

Civil/Legal Wedding Requirement and Explanation

In Aruba, the Legalities must take place within the confines of the Civil Town House, (a beautiful restored historic building), prior to the solemnizing of a couples union. It's the Dutch Law!

The Civil Town House is open Monday through Friday From 10am to 12pm and from 2:30pm to 4.00pm and on Saturdays from 11.00am through 12.30pm. Surcharges apply for Saturday Civil Wedding. Closed on Sunday's and Holidays. Documents required are as follows,

1. Long Form Birth Certificate for bride & groom.
2. Apostle (1 each for bride and groom), this is a document authenticating the signature of the clerk that issued the birth certificate.
 - a. For U.S. Citizens: Long form birth certificate, apostle and negative statement of marriage are obtained at the bureau of Vital Statistics located in the department of health.
 - b. In the U.K: Apostles for the Birth certificates are obtained at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
 - c. In Canada: Apostles for the Birth Certificate are obtained at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or at the "Consulate General" in Montreal, Toronto or Vancouver.
3. Negative Statement of marriage for both sides (a document proves that you're single and eligible to be married).
4. Letter of Intent for both bride and Groom to be married.
5. If Divorce, 1st and last page of divorce decree for bride and/or groom
6. If Widowed, copy of death certificate for bride and/or groom
7. Copy of passport picture page or a copy of a valid I.D. for bride and groom
8. For Witnesses: (When bringing your own) copy of valid I.D. or copy of passport picture page. Copy of birth certificate (minimum 2 and Maximum 4 witnesses can sit in for each couple. Witnesses must be 18 years or older)
9. The legal wedding certificate has to be translated then sealed before it can be taken back to country of residence/citizenship for register.
10. All legal Documents must be sent via courier to YES I DO 8 weeks prior to wedding date.
11. Proper attire is required at the civil town hall. No shorts, beach slippers or cut-offs. Full wedding attire is acceptable but not a must.

Different churches and ministries require different requirements in having a religious wedding ceremony in Aruba. Some of these are as follows:

Catholic Church Requirements:

1. Proof that the prospective bride and groom have attended pre-marriage preparation.
2. Permission from their priest to get married in Aruba.
3. An official declaration from their local priest stating that neither party has been previously married in a church.
4. Copy of Wedding Certificate showing that they have been legally married in their home country.
5. Baptismal and Confirmation certificates of both parties as well as copies of their passports or I.D. Cards.
6. The proposed wedding must take place inside the church building.
7. All documents must be submitted four (4) months prior to the chosen wedding date.

Please be advised that you should call the Office of Civil Registry or one of the local Catholic churches prior coming to Aruba, for these procedures are on hold until review of procedures is complete.

- 1) St. Francisco's Parish Church - Irausquinplein 3, Oranjestad, Aruba Tel: (297) 582-1434
- 2) St. Anna Parish Church - Noord 16, Oranjestad, Aruba Tel: (297) 587-1409 (Fax: (297) 587-8554)

The minimum donation to the church is US \$70. No Catholic weddings can be held outside of the church building.

Protestant/Episcopalian/Methodist Church Requirements:

1. Wedding ceremony can be affiliated in the local Protestant/Episcopalian or Methodist churches or anywhere else the couple desires.
2. If married outside of Aruba, copy of marriage certificate from their home country.
3. Proper attire is required for all "religious blessings"(i.e.: no swimsuits or wraps for the bride though shorts are acceptable for the groom.)

The ceremony can be held in one of the church buildings, at the host hotel, on the beach, or anywhere the couple prefers. The ceremony fee is US \$200, which already includes a wedding certificate. Non-Protestants can be married by the Protestant Church. O

Protestant Church - Wilhelminastraat 1, Oranjestad. Tel. (297) 582-1435.

Jewish Synagogue Requirements:

1. Both partners must be Jewish and need to submit a verification of Judaism from the Rabbi of their hometown.
2. The Aruban Cantor accepts Jewish status certificates from valid Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Liberal and Re-Constructionist authorities.
3. A formal petition needs to be submitted to the Aruba Jewish Community.
4. The wedding ceremony may take place either in the synagogue or any other venue of choice.
5. The synagogue of Aruba is an independent Conservative-Reform-style congregation.

The petition to the Aruba Jewish Community should be submitted to the following address:

Israelische Gemeente-Bet Israel A. Lacle Blvd. 2, Box 2, Aruba Tel: (297) 582-3272
(ledaneps@setarnet.aw)