

LEGAL AND JUDICIAL

Foreigner Court Marriage Process in Nepal

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Learn the foreigner court marriage process in Nepal, including legal requirements, documents, District Court procedures, fees, costs, timelines, and legal services.

Court marriage in Nepal is available to foreign nationals who satisfy the legal requirements prescribed by Nepali law. A foreigner may marry a Nepali citizen, and foreign nationals may also be able to marry each other in Nepal, subject to the applicable legal and documentary requirements.

The principal law governing marriage by registration is the [National Civil Code, 2074 \(2017\)](#). Sections 67-84 contain provisions relating to marriage, including marriage by registration. Section 77 provides for an application to the concerned District Court where the parties seek to conclude marriage by registration in Nepal. The law also requires either the man or woman, or both, to have resided in the concerned district for at least 15 days before filing.

For foreigners, additional documentation commonly includes a valid passport and visa, evidence that the person is legally free to marry, and documentation concerning the marriage law of the foreign national's home country. Requirements can vary according to nationality and the practice of the concerned court or embassy, so the documents should be confirmed before filing. [Adalat Lawyers in Nepal](#).

1. What Is Foreigner Court Marriage in Nepal?

Foreigner court marriage in Nepal refers to [marriage by registration involving a foreign national](#) under Nepal's applicable marriage law. It may involve a foreigner marrying a Nepali citizen or, where legally permitted, two foreign nationals registering their marriage in Nepal.

The National Civil Code, 2074 provides the statutory framework for marriage and marriage by registration. Section 70 sets the general conditions for marriage, while Section 77 deals with an application for marriage by registration. The law does not create a separate marriage institution merely because one applicant is a foreigner. However, foreign applicants must provide documents that allow the competent authority to verify identity, marital status and legal capacity to marry.

The [foreigner court marriage process in Nepal](#) therefore involves both the general requirements under Nepali marriage law and additional documentation applicable to the foreign applicant.

2. What Laws Govern Foreigner Court Marriage?

The principal legislation is the **National Civil Code, 2074**, particularly its provisions on marriage. Sections 67–84 address marriage-related matters, including conditions for marriage, marriage by registration, registration procedures and related consequences. The Nepal Law Commission publishes the current Civil Code and related legislation.

Section 70 establishes the statutory conditions for concluding a marriage. Section 77 provides the procedure for applying to the concerned District Court for marriage by registration. Section 78 concerns the inquiry into whether the proposed marriage may legally be concluded, while subsequent provisions address consent and registration.

Other laws can become relevant depending on the circumstances. Immigration law applies to the foreigner's lawful stay in Nepal. If the foreign spouse later seeks a non-tourist or other immigration status based on marriage to a Nepali citizen, immigration rules and requirements also become relevant. The Supreme Court has considered the immigration status and visa treatment of foreign nationals married to Nepali citizens.

3. Where Can Foreigners Register Court Marriage?

A foreign national seeking **court marriage in Nepal** generally applies to the **concerned District Court** under Section 77 of the National Civil Code when the marriage is to be concluded by registration in Nepal. The residence jurisdiction must be established before filing.

Section 77 provides that either the man or woman, or both, must have resided in the concerned district for at least 15 days before making the application. This residence requirement is particularly relevant to foreign nationals who have recently entered Nepal.

In practice, foreign applicants commonly establish their temporary residence through the relevant local ward office after satisfying the required period. District Courts may also require supporting evidence concerning the foreigner's stay in Nepal.

Foreign couples should confirm the precise filing requirements with the selected District Court before making travel arrangements because documentary requirements can differ depending on nationality and individual circumstances.

4. What Legal Requirements Apply to Foreigners?

A foreign national must satisfy the general legal conditions for marriage under Nepali law. Section 70 of the National Civil Code requires the parties to meet the statutory conditions for a valid marriage. The legal requirements are not limited to nationality.

In general, applicants should establish that:

- Both parties have reached the legal marriage age of 20 years.
- Both parties freely consent to the marriage.
- Neither party has an existing matrimonial relationship.
- The parties are not within a legally prohibited relationship.
- The foreign applicant has lawful documentation identifying the person.
- The foreign applicant can establish legal capacity to marry where required.
- The residence requirement for the concerned district has been satisfied.

Foreign applicants are commonly asked to produce a **No Objection Certificate, Certificate of No Impediment, or equivalent single-status document** from the relevant embassy or competent authority. The exact form depends on the foreigner's nationality.

The District Court ultimately determines whether the statutory requirements have been satisfied.

5. What Documents Are Needed for Court Marriage?

The documentary requirements for a **foreigner court marriage in Nepal** are more extensive than those for many Nepali applicants. The purpose is to verify identity, nationality, lawful stay, marital status and eligibility.

Common documents include:

- Original valid passport.
- Valid Nepal visa.
- Passport-size photographs.
- No Objection Certificate or Certificate of No Impediment.
- Single-status or unmarried-status evidence where applicable.
- Temporary residence recommendation or certificate.
- Relevant law concerning marriage in the foreigner's home country.

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- Nepali translation of foreign-language documents.
 - Notarized or authenticated documents where required.
 - Divorce decree or death certificate of a former spouse, if applicable.
 - Identification documents of required witnesses.
 - Other documents requested by the concerned District Court.

Foreign documents may need authentication, translation and notarization before submission. Several Nepal-based legal sources report that courts commonly request the foreigner's marriage-law document and its Nepali translation.

The exact checklist should be confirmed according to the applicant's nationality.

6. How Does Foreigner Court Marriage Process Work?

The **court marriage process for foreigners in Nepal** normally begins with document preparation and satisfaction of the residence requirement. The foreign applicant should contact the relevant embassy or competent authority early because obtaining a single-status document can take time.

The general process is:

1. Confirm both parties' legal eligibility for marriage.
2. Identify the appropriate District Court.
3. Complete the required 15-day residence period.
4. Obtain the temporary residence documentation where required.
5. Obtain the foreign applicant's NOC or equivalent status document.
6. Prepare the foreign country's marriage-law document.
7. Translate and notarize foreign-language documents.
8. Prepare passports, visas, photographs and witness documents.
9. Complete the marriage application.
10. File the application with the District Court.
11. Attend the court proceeding with required witnesses.
12. Complete the consent and registration formalities.
13. Receive the marriage registration certificate.

Section 77 establishes the application process, while Sections 78–80 govern inquiry, consent and registration.

7. How Long Does Foreigner Court Marriage Take?

The statutory residence requirement is a major factor in determining the **foreigner court marriage timeline in Nepal**. Section 77 requires either the man or woman, or both, to have resided in the concerned district for at least 15 days before filing the marriage-by-registration application.

Therefore, a foreigner who arrives in Nepal shortly before the intended marriage generally cannot complete the entire court process immediately. The applicant should allow time for residence documentation, embassy procedures and document preparation.

After the residence requirement has been satisfied and the application is filed, the court conducts the required inquiry. Section 78 provides a statutory decision framework concerning whether the marriage can be concluded.

In practical terms, foreign couples should generally plan for **at least 15 days in Nepal plus additional time for documentation and court processing**. Embassy appointments, translations, missing documents or court scheduling can extend the timeline. Some legal service providers recommend allowing approximately three weeks or more for the complete process.

8. What Government Fees Apply to Court Marriage?

The prescribed fee for an application for marriage by registration is commonly stated as **NPR 500** under the applicable procedural framework. A published explanation of Nepal's court-marriage procedure also identifies an NPR 500 court fee for the application.

However, the government application fee is not the same as the total expense of a foreigner court marriage. Foreign applicants may have additional costs for documents and official services.

Possible government or administrative expenses can include:

- Court application fee.
- Ward-office residence documentation fees.
- Document certification or notarization.
- Translation expenses.
- Embassy or consular charges.

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- Authentication or legalization charges.
 - Immigration-related fees where applicable.

Foreign embassy charges are determined by the relevant foreign government rather than Nepal's District Court. Immigration fees also depend on the applicable visa category and circumstances. The Supreme Court has recognized that Nepal's visa system prescribes different fees according to visa categories.

Applicants should confirm current fees before filing because administrative charges can change.

9. What Is the Total Cost for Foreigners?

The **total cost of foreigner court marriage in Nepal** depends on the couple's nationality, documents, residence arrangements and use of legal services. The NPR 500 court application fee represents only one component of the total expense.

A foreign couple may incur expenses for:

- Court filing fee.
- Embassy NOC or certificate charges.
- Temporary residence documentation.
- Notarization.
- Translation.
- Document authentication.
- Passport and visa-related copies.
- Photographs.
- Transportation.
- Lawyer's professional fees.

Foreign couples should obtain a cost estimate before starting the process. Lawyer fees are professional charges and should not be presented as government fees.

The cost can also increase where documents require multiple levels of authentication or where a foreign applicant needs additional certification from their home country's authorities. Couples should prepare the foreign documents before arriving in Nepal wherever possible. [Law firm in Nepal](#).

10. Which Authorities Handle Foreigner Court Marriage?

The **District Court** is the principal authority for marriage by registration in Nepal under Section 77. The court examines the application and determines whether the legal requirements for registration have been satisfied.

Other authorities can also become involved in the documentation process. The local ward office may provide residence-related documentation. The foreign applicant's embassy or consulate may issue an NOC or equivalent document. A foreign government authority may issue single-status or capacity-to-marry documentation.

The **Department of Immigration** becomes relevant to the foreigner's lawful stay and any subsequent immigration status. A foreign national married to a Nepali citizen may have immigration options based on the marriage registration certificate, subject to the applicable immigration rules. The [Supreme Court](#) has discussed the category of foreign nationals married to Nepali citizens who produce marriage registration certificates when seeking non-tourist visas.

Each authority performs a different function, so applicants should not treat the embassy, ward office and District Court as interchangeable.

11. What Happens After Filing Marriage Application?

After filing the application, the District Court examines the submitted documents and conducts the inquiry required by law. Section 78 provides for an inquiry concerning whether the proposed marriage can legally be concluded.

The applicants may be required to appear personally before the court and provide consent. Required witnesses also participate in the registration procedure. If the court finds that the legal requirements have been satisfied, the marriage can proceed to the registration stage.

The parties should carefully check all information entered into the marriage registration record, particularly:

- Full names.
- Passport or citizenship numbers.
- Dates of birth.
- Nationality.
- Permanent and temporary addresses.
- Marriage date.
- Witness information.

After registration, the couple receives a **marriage registration certificate**. The certificate may later be used for immigration, family-status, visa or other legal purposes. Foreign documents and the Nepali marriage certificate may require further authentication depending on the country where the certificate will be used.

12. Can Foreigners Marry Nepali Citizens in Nepal?

Yes. A foreign national can marry a Nepali citizen in Nepal when both parties satisfy the requirements of Nepali marriage law and provide the required documents.

The marriage itself does not automatically grant the foreign spouse Nepali citizenship. Marriage registration and citizenship are separate legal matters. Likewise, obtaining a marriage certificate does not automatically provide an unrestricted right to remain in Nepal.

The foreign spouse may need to maintain lawful immigration status and may apply for an appropriate immigration status where the applicable rules permit. The Supreme Court has specifically considered immigration provisions concerning foreign nationals married to Nepali citizens who produce a marriage registration certificate.

A foreign-Nepali couple should therefore distinguish between:

1. Legal marriage registration.
2. Issuance of the marriage certificate.
3. Immigration or visa status.
4. Citizenship or nationality.

Each matter is governed by different legal requirements.

13. What Checklist Should Foreign Couples Follow?

A foreign couple should complete a **foreigner court marriage checklist** before traveling or filing in Nepal. Missing documentation can delay the process.

Pre-filing checklist

- Confirm both parties are at least 20.
- Confirm both parties are legally free to marry.
- Check passport validity.

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- Check Nepal visa validity.
 - Contact the relevant embassy or consulate.
 - Obtain the NOC or equivalent certificate.
 - Obtain single-status documentation if required.
 - Obtain the applicable foreign marriage law.
 - Arrange Nepali translation and notarization.
 - Complete the 15-day residence requirement.
 - Obtain required ward-office residence documentation.
 - Prepare photographs.
 - Prepare witness identification.
 - Prepare divorce or death documents where applicable.
 - Make copies of all originals.
 - Confirm the District Court's current requirements.
 - Confirm court and administrative fees.
 - Keep sufficient time for court processing.

The documentary requirements reported by Nepal-based legal sources consistently include a passport, valid visa, NOC or equivalent document, temporary residence evidence and the foreign country's marriage-law documentation.

14. When Should Foreigners Hire Marriage Lawyers?

Foreigners may complete a straightforward marriage process without extensive legal assistance, but a **court marriage lawyer in Nepal** can help where the documents, nationality or jurisdiction create additional issues.

Legal assistance can be useful when:

- The foreign applicant does not know which document proves single status.
- The embassy uses a different form of NOC.
- The applicant's country has no embassy in Nepal.
- Foreign documents require authentication.
- Documents require Nepali translation.
- A previous marriage ended through divorce.

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- The applicant has questions about the 15-day residence requirement.
 - The District Court requests additional documents.
 - The couple needs assistance with court filing.
 - The foreign spouse later needs immigration assistance.

A lawyer can review documents before filing and identify potential problems before the couple appears before the court. This can reduce unnecessary visits to government offices and prevent avoidable delays.

The scope of legal representation should be agreed in advance, including document preparation, filing assistance, court appearance and any post-marriage immigration work.

15. What Legal Services Support Foreign Court Marriage?

Adalat Lawyers in Nepal can assist foreign nationals and international couples with legal matters connected with court marriage in Nepal, subject to the facts and applicable requirements.

Legal services may include:

- Eligibility assessment.
- Document checklist preparation.
- Review of passports and visas.
- Advice concerning NOC requirements.
- Review of single-status documents.
- Temporary residence guidance.
- Foreign marriage-law document review.
- Translation and notarization coordination.
- District Court application preparation.
- Filing assistance.
- Court appearance assistance.
- Marriage certificate guidance.
- Post-marriage immigration advice.
- Assistance with document authentication for foreign use.

Foreign couples should provide accurate information about nationality, marital history, current visa, residence and intended marriage arrangements. These facts can affect the documents required.

The **National Civil Code, 2074** remains the principal legal framework for marriage by registration, while immigration matters are governed separately. The Nepal Law Commission maintains the current Civil Code and procedural legislation.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can foreigners legally marry in Nepal?

Yes. Foreign nationals can marry in Nepal if they satisfy the applicable legal requirements and complete the required registration procedure. The process generally takes place through the concerned District Court when the parties seek marriage by registration. Foreign applicants must also provide documents establishing identity, legal status and eligibility to marry.

Where can foreigners register court marriage?

Foreign nationals seeking marriage by registration in Nepal generally apply to the concerned District Court. Section 77 of the National Civil Code requires either the man or woman, or both, to have resided in the concerned district for at least 15 days before filing. The exact court and documentation should be confirmed before submission.

What documents do foreigners need for marriage?

Foreign applicants commonly need a valid passport, Nepal visa, photographs, temporary residence documentation, and a No Objection Certificate or equivalent proof of legal capacity to marry. Courts may also request the foreign country's marriage law with Nepali translation and notarization. Divorce or death documents may be required if an applicant was previously married.

How long does foreigner court marriage take?

The residence requirement alone requires at least 15 days in the concerned district before filing. Additional time may be needed for embassy documentation, translations, notarization, court filing and the registration appointment. Foreign couples should therefore plan for more than 15 days in Nepal rather than assuming that the marriage certificate can be obtained immediately after arrival.

How much does foreigner court marriage cost?

The court application fee is commonly stated as NPR 500, but the complete cost is higher where the couple requires embassy documents, translations, notarization, authentication, residence documentation or legal services. Embassy and consular charges vary by nationality. Lawyer fees are separate from government charges and should be confirmed directly with the selected law firm.

What government fees apply to court marriage?

The prescribed court application fee is commonly NPR 500 for marriage by registration. Additional expenses may arise for ward-office documents, notarization, translation or authentication. Foreign embassy charges are separate and depend on the applicant's nationality. Immigration fees are also separate from marriage-registration fees and depend on the applicable immigration status.

Can foreigners marry Nepali citizens legally?

Yes. A foreign national may marry a Nepali citizen in Nepal after satisfying the legal conditions and documentary requirements. The resulting marriage certificate does not automatically grant Nepali citizenship or unrestricted immigration status to the foreign spouse. Immigration status, citizenship and marriage registration are separate legal matters governed by different laws and procedures.

Are foreign marriage documents required for registration?

Yes, foreign applicants may need documents issued by their home-country authorities or embassy showing that they are legally free to marry. Courts may also require the relevant marriage law of the foreigner's country, translated and notarized. The exact document depends on nationality and the requirements applied by the concerned District Court.

Are witnesses required for foreigner court marriage?

Foreign court-marriage procedures commonly require the parties to appear with witnesses during the registration stage. The witnesses must provide identification acceptable to the concerned authority. Because witness requirements can differ in practice, foreign couples should confirm the current requirement with the District Court or their lawyer before attending the marriage-registration appointment.

Can lawyers handle foreigner court marriage procedures?

Yes. Lawyers can assist with eligibility review, document preparation, NOC requirements, translations, residence documentation, District Court filing and court procedures. They can also advise on post-marriage immigration matters where required. Legal services do not replace government or embassy requirements; the applicants must still provide

genuine documents and satisfy the applicable legal conditions.

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