

Philippine Marriage Requirements

Requisites of Valid Marriage in the Philippines

- (1) Legal capacity of the contracting parties who must be a male and a female, 18 years old and above without any impediment to get married (ones considered by law and society incestuous, really)
- (2) Consent freely given in the presence of the solemnizing officer.
- (3) Authority of the solemnizing officer (only incumbent member of the judiciary; priest, rabbi, imam, or minister of any church or religious sect duly authorized by his church or religious sect and registered with the civil registrar general; ship captain or airplane chief, military commander of a unit to which a chaplain is assigned, in the absence of the latter, during a military operation only in marriages at the point of death; and consul-general, consul or vice-consul only between Filipino citizens abroad are authorized by law to solemnize marriage)
- (4) A valid marriage license (except in cases of marriages in articulo mortis or at the point of death, marriages between members of ethnic cultural minorities and those who live in very remote places where transportation is impossible to secure a license)
- (5) A marriage ceremony which takes place with the appearance of the contracting parties before the solemnizing officer and their personal declaration that they take each other as husband and wife in the presence of not less than two witnesses of legal age.

The absence of any of these requisites shall render the marriage void ab initio or not valid from the very beginning. A defect in any of the essential requisites shall not affect the validity of the marriage but the person responsible for the irregularity shall be civilly, criminally and administratively liable for example, if the marriage license issued by the LCR is not valid due to irregularities, the marriage is considered but the Local Civil Registrar can be held administratively or even criminally liable.

b.) Parties 21 -25 years old shall be obliged to ask their parents or guardian for advice upon the intended marriage. If they do not obtain such advice, or if it be unfavorable, the marriage license shall not be issued till after three months following the completion of the publication of the application therefor.

c.) In marriages falling under A and B, the parties shall, in addition to the requirements of the preceding requirements, attach a marriage counseling certificate issued by a priest, imam or minister authorized to solemnize marriage or a marriage counselor duly accredited by the proper government agency. Failure to secure which shall suspend the issuance of the marriage license for a period of three months from the completion of the publication of the application.

4. There is also a requirement of attending a Family Planning Seminar. The certificate issued from which is also presented to the LCR for the issuance of the marriage license.

5. For foreign nationals, it is necessary to submit a certificate of legal capacity to contract marriage obtained from their own government, or consular office. It is always advisable to have your passports and IDs and authenticated copies thereof handy at all times.

6. Payment of required fee

Upon successfully complying with the aforesaid requirements, the application for marriage license will be published by the Local Civil Registrar for 10 consecutive days on a bulletin board outside their office during which period the public may notify the LCR of any known impediment to the marriage. After the publication, the marriage license is issued and the couple can get married.

The marriage license shall be valid in any part of the Philippines for a period of 120 days from the date of issue, and shall be deemed automatically canceled at the expiration of the said period if the contracting parties have not made use of it. The expiry date shall be stamped in bold characters on the face of every license issued.

The requirements stated above are the basic requirements required by law when getting married in the Philippines. Those who will go through different church/religious weddings might be required to submit to additional requirements based on their respective religion.

7. Certificate of No Marriage (CENOMAR)- Under the Implementing Rules & Regulations of the New Civil Code, A Certificate of No Marriage issued by the NSO shall also be required for the issuance of marriage license.

Ref.: <http://www.western-asian.com/marriage/44-marriage/95-philippine-marriage-requirements>