

LEGAL AND JUDICIAL

Foreign Nationals Court Marriage in Nepal

27 August 2026

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

Court marriage in Nepal is available to foreign nationals who meet the requirements of Nepali law and satisfy the documentary conditions imposed by the concerned authority. A foreign national may marry a Nepali citizen in Nepal, subject to the applicable legal requirements. Foreign nationals may also seek marriage registration in Nepal where the circumstances and applicable law permit it.

The principal legal framework is the [National Civil Code, 2074 \(2017\)](#). Its marriage provisions regulate the conditions for marriage and marriage by registration. Under Section 77, a person seeking marriage by registration must apply to the concerned District Court, and at least one of the parties must have resided in the concerned district for at least 15 days before filing. Foreign applicants generally need additional documents to establish identity, marital status and legal capacity to marry.

Because foreign documents may require authentication, translation or certification, applicants should verify the current requirements of the relevant District Court before filing. [Adalat Lawyers in Nepal](#).

1. What Is Court Marriage for Foreign Nationals?

[Foreign nationals court marriage in Nepal](#) means marriage by registration involving one or more foreign citizens under the applicable marriage laws of Nepal. The process is generally conducted before the concerned District Court when the parties choose marriage by registration under the National Civil Code, 2074.

A foreign national must satisfy the general legal conditions applicable to marriage. The court may also require documents proving nationality, identity, age, marital status and legal capacity to marry. The foreign applicant may need a certificate from the relevant embassy or competent authority confirming that there is no legal impediment to the proposed marriage.

Court marriage registration is different from immigration or citizenship. Obtaining a Nepali marriage certificate does not automatically give a foreign spouse Nepali citizenship or permanent immigration status. Any later visa or immigration application must follow the separate applicable immigration rules.

2. What Laws Govern Foreign Nationals Court Marriage?

The main legislation governing **foreign nationals court marriage in Nepal** is the **National Civil Code, 2074**. The marriage provisions establish the legal conditions for marriage, marriage by registration and related procedures.

Section 70 sets conditions that must be satisfied for a valid marriage. These include the parties reaching the prescribed age, giving consent, not having an existing marital relationship and not being within a prohibited relationship. Section 77 deals with an application for marriage by registration before the concerned District Court.

Section 78 provides for inquiry into whether the proposed marriage may legally be concluded. Sections 79 and 80 address consent and registration-related matters.

Other laws can apply to foreign nationals after marriage, particularly immigration legislation. Marriage registration itself and the [foreigner's immigration](#) status are separate legal matters.

3. Where Can Foreign Nationals Register Marriage?

Foreign nationals seeking [court marriage registration in Nepal](#) generally apply to the **concerned District Court** under Section 77 of the National Civil Code. The appropriate court depends on the residence jurisdiction applicable to the parties.

The law provides a **15-day residence requirement** before an application for marriage by registration can be filed. At least one of the parties must have resided in the concerned district for the prescribed period.

A foreign applicant should therefore establish where the application can legally be filed before making arrangements for the marriage. In practice, foreign applicants may also need temporary residence documentation from the relevant local authority.

The District Court should be contacted in advance because foreign applicants may face additional documentary requirements depending on nationality. An embassy, ward office or immigration authority does not replace the District Court for the judicial registration procedure.

4. What Legal Requirements Apply to Foreign Nationals?

Foreign nationals must satisfy the legal conditions for marriage under Nepali law. Nationality alone does not remove the general requirements imposed on parties seeking marriage registration.

The applicants generally need to establish that:

- Both parties have attained 20 years of age.
- Both parties freely consent to the marriage.
- Neither party has an existing valid marital relationship.
- The parties are not within a prohibited degree of relationship.
- The foreign applicant has valid identity documents.
- The foreign applicant can establish legal capacity to marry.
- The statutory residence requirement has been satisfied.
- The information and documents submitted to the court are genuine.

A foreign applicant may need a **No Objection Certificate, Certificate of No Impediment, or equivalent document** from the relevant embassy or competent authority. The exact document depends on the foreigner's country and its laws.

The court makes the final assessment based on the applicable law and evidence submitted.

5. What Documents Are Needed for Registration?

Foreign nationals generally need more documentation than Nepali citizens because the court must verify foreign identity and legal capacity. The exact requirements can vary according to nationality and the documents issued by the applicant's home country.

Common documents may include:

- Valid original passport.
- Valid Nepal visa.
- Recent passport-size photographs.
- No Objection Certificate or equivalent document.
- Certificate proving single or unmarried status, where required.
- Temporary residence documentation.
- Applicable marriage law or legal-capacity document from the foreign country.

-
- Nepali translation of foreign documents.
 - Notarization or authentication where required.
 - Divorce decree if previously married.
 - Death certificate of a former spouse where applicable.
 - Required witness identification documents.

Foreign-language documents may need certified translation into Nepali. Authentication requirements can also apply before documents are accepted.

Applicants should not rely on a general internet checklist alone. The concerned District Court and relevant embassy should confirm the documents required for the particular nationality.

6. How Does Foreign Nationals Court Marriage Work?

The **court marriage process for foreign nationals in Nepal** involves preparation of documents, satisfaction of the residence requirement, filing before the competent District Court and completion of the registration procedure.

General process:

1. Confirm that both parties satisfy the legal conditions for marriage.
2. Identify the appropriate District Court.
3. Complete the required 15-day residence period.
4. Obtain required residence documentation.
5. Obtain the foreign applicant's NOC or equivalent certificate.
6. Collect evidence of single status or legal capacity to marry.
7. Prepare the foreign country's relevant marriage-law document.
8. Translate and authenticate documents where required.
9. Prepare passports, visas, photographs and witness documents.
10. Complete and submit the marriage application.
11. Attend the District Court as required.
12. Provide consent and complete registration formalities.
13. Obtain the marriage registration certificate.

The court may ask questions or request additional documents before completing registration. Applicants should provide consistent information in all documents.

7. How Long Does Court Marriage Registration Take?

The **foreigner court marriage timeline in Nepal** depends on the statutory residence requirement, document preparation and court processing. Section 77 of the National Civil Code requires at least one party to have resided in the concerned district for **15 days** before filing a marriage-by-registration application.

The 15-day requirement does not necessarily represent the total time needed for the entire process. Foreign nationals may need additional time to obtain an embassy certificate, prepare single-status documents, translate foreign documents and complete authentication.

After the residence requirement and documentation are satisfied, the District Court conducts the legally required inquiry and registration procedure. Court scheduling and additional document requests may affect the completion date.

Foreign couples should therefore allow sufficient time in Nepal rather than arranging travel on the assumption that registration will be completed immediately after arrival. The actual time depends on the circumstances and current court requirements.

8. What Government Fees Apply to Marriage Registration?

The **court marriage government fee in Nepal** depends on the applicable filing and administrative requirements. The court application fee commonly associated with marriage by registration is **NPR 500**, although applicants should confirm the current fee with the concerned District Court before filing.

The court fee is separate from other expenses that a foreign national may incur. These may include document translation, notarization, authentication, embassy or consular charges and residence-related administrative costs.

Government and administrative charges can therefore include:

- District Court application fee.
- Local administrative or residence documentation charges.
- Document certification charges.
- Translation-related official charges where applicable.
- Embassy or consular fees.

-
- Authentication or legalization charges.

Embassy fees are determined by the relevant foreign government and are not District Court fees.

Applicants should obtain an updated fee quotation before filing because government and administrative charges may change.

9. What Is the Total Court Marriage Cost?

The **total cost of foreign nationals court marriage in Nepal** depends on the documents required, nationality, translation and authentication requirements, travel and legal assistance. The court application fee is only one part of the total expense.

Typical expenses can include:

- District Court filing fee.
- Embassy or consular document fees.
- Single-status certificate costs.
- Translation charges.
- Notarization charges.
- Authentication or legalization charges.
- Temporary residence documentation.
- Photographs and document copies.
- Transportation expenses.
- Lawyer's professional fees.

There is no single total cost applicable to every foreign national court marriage. A foreign applicant whose documents already meet Nepali requirements may incur fewer expenses than an applicant who needs multiple certificates, translations and authentication.

A law firm should separately identify **government fees, third-party administrative charges and professional legal fees** when giving a cost estimate to the couple.

10. Which Authorities Handle Foreign Nationals Marriage Registration?

Several authorities may be involved, but each performs a different legal function. The **District Court** handles marriage by registration under the National Civil Code.

The local **ward office** may issue residence-related documentation where required. The foreign national's **embassy or consulate** may issue a No Objection Certificate, Certificate of No Impediment or other document concerning the applicant's marital status.

The **Department of Immigration** handles immigration matters concerning the foreign national's stay and applicable visa status. Marriage registration does not itself replace immigration requirements.

The relevant authorities may therefore include:

- Concerned District Court.
- Local ward office.
- Foreign embassy or consulate.
- Department of Immigration.
- Foreign government authorities issuing marital-status documents.

The couple should identify which authority is responsible for each document before beginning the application. The District Court remains the relevant judicial authority for marriage by registration.

11. What Happens After Filing Marriage Registration?

After the application is filed, the District Court examines the documents and conducts the inquiry required under the National Civil Code. The court considers whether the parties satisfy the statutory requirements for marriage by registration.

The parties may need to appear personally before the court and provide their consent. Witnesses may also be required to participate in the registration procedure. If the court finds the requirements satisfied, the marriage is registered and the parties receive the marriage certificate.

Applicants should check the accuracy of the final record, including:

- Full legal names.
- Dates of birth.
- Nationality.

-
- Passport or identification details.
 - Addresses.
 - Marriage date.
 - Witness information.

The **marriage registration certificate** can later serve as evidence of the marriage for lawful purposes. A foreign spouse may need the certificate for immigration, visa or foreign administrative procedures.

Where the certificate will be used outside Nepal, further authentication or legalization may be required.

12. Can Foreign Nationals Marry Nepali Citizens Legally?

Yes, a foreign national can legally marry a Nepali citizen in Nepal if both parties satisfy the requirements of Nepali marriage law and complete the applicable registration process.

The foreign spouse must provide the documents required to establish identity, marital status and legal capacity. The parties must also meet the general conditions under the National Civil Code.

Marriage registration does **not automatically grant Nepali citizenship** to the foreign spouse. It also does not automatically provide permanent residence or an unrestricted right to remain in Nepal.

After marriage, the foreign spouse must continue to comply with applicable immigration requirements. The marriage certificate may be relevant to an application for an appropriate immigration status, but the Department of Immigration separately determines immigration matters under the applicable rules.

Marriage, immigration status and citizenship should therefore be treated as three separate legal issues.

13. What Checklist Should Foreign Nationals Complete?

Foreign nationals should complete a **court marriage checklist in Nepal** before filing. Proper preparation helps identify missing documents and potential legal issues.

Foreign marriage registration checklist:

- Confirm both parties meet the legal marriage age.
- Confirm both parties freely consent.
- Confirm neither party has an existing marriage.

-
- Check passport validity.
 - Check valid Nepal visa.
 - Confirm the appropriate District Court.
 - Complete the required 15-day residence period.
 - Obtain residence documentation where required.
 - Obtain NOC or equivalent certificate.
 - Obtain single-status evidence.
 - Obtain the relevant foreign marriage-law document.
 - Translate foreign documents into Nepali where required.
 - Complete notarization or authentication.
 - Prepare photographs.
 - Prepare witness identification documents.
 - Prepare previous divorce or death documents, if applicable.
 - Confirm current government fees.
 - Confirm the court's current document requirements.
 - Keep original documents and copies available.

The final checklist should be confirmed with the concerned District Court because requirements may differ according to nationality and individual circumstances.

14. When Should Foreign Nationals Hire Lawyers?

Foreign nationals may benefit from hiring a **court marriage lawyer in Nepal** when the procedure involves foreign documents, different legal systems or questions about jurisdiction. Legal assistance can be particularly useful when applicants are unfamiliar with Nepali court procedures.

A lawyer can assist when:

- The applicant needs help identifying the correct District Court.
- Foreign documents require translation or authentication.
- The embassy has special NOC requirements.
- The applicant was previously married.

-
- The foreign applicant has an unusual nationality or documentation issue.
 - The court requests additional evidence.
 - The couple needs help preparing the application.
 - The couple requires assistance after marriage with related legal procedures.

A lawyer can review the documents before filing and identify inconsistencies that may cause delays. Legal representation does not remove the applicants' obligation to provide genuine documents or satisfy statutory requirements.

The couple should agree in writing on the scope and professional fee for legal services.

15. What Legal Services Support Foreign Nationals Marriage?

Adalat Lawyers in Nepal can provide legal assistance to foreign nationals seeking marriage registration in Nepal, depending on the facts and applicable law. The service can cover document review, application preparation and court-related assistance.

Legal services may include:

- Foreign marriage eligibility assessment.
- Document checklist preparation.
- Passport and visa document review.
- NOC and single-status document guidance.
- Foreign marriage-law document review.
- Translation and notarization coordination.
- Residence requirement guidance.
- District Court application preparation.
- Filing assistance.
- Court attendance and procedural assistance.
- Marriage certificate guidance.
- Document authentication assistance.
- Post-marriage immigration-related legal guidance.

Foreign applicants should provide complete and accurate information about nationality, current marital status, previous marriage, visa and residence. These facts can affect the applicable requirements.

The **National Civil Code, 2074** provides the principal framework for marriage by registration, while immigration matters remain subject to separate immigration laws and procedures.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can foreign nationals marry legally in Nepal?

Yes. Foreign nationals can legally marry in Nepal if they satisfy the applicable conditions under Nepali marriage law and complete the required registration procedure. A foreigner may marry a Nepali citizen, subject to the required documents and court process. The foreign applicant must also maintain lawful immigration status during the stay in Nepal.

Where can foreign nationals register marriage?

Foreign nationals seeking marriage by registration generally apply to the concerned District Court. Section 77 of the National Civil Code provides the framework for marriage by registration and requires the prescribed residence condition. The appropriate District Court depends on the applicable residence jurisdiction, so applicants should confirm the filing location before preparing the application.

What documents do foreign nationals need?

Foreign nationals commonly need a valid passport, Nepal visa, photographs, evidence of single status, and a No Objection Certificate or equivalent document. The court may also require the foreign country's marriage-law documentation, Nepali translations and authentication. Previous divorce or death documents may be required where an applicant was previously married.

How long does court marriage registration take?

The National Civil Code requires at least one party to have resided in the concerned district for 15 days before filing a marriage-by-registration application. The total process can take longer because foreign applicants may need embassy documents, translations, authentication and court processing. The actual timeline depends on the documents and court schedule.

How much does foreign marriage registration cost?

There is no single total cost for every foreign nationals court marriage in Nepal. The expenses can include the court filing fee, embassy charges, translation, notarization, authentication, residence documentation and lawyer fees. The commonly stated court application fee is NPR 500, but applicants should confirm the current charges before filing.

What government fees apply to registration?

The court application fee commonly associated with marriage by registration is NPR 500. Other administrative expenses may apply depending on the documents and services required. Embassy, consular, translation, notarization and authentication charges are separate from the District Court fee. Current fees should be confirmed with the relevant authority before filing.

Can foreigners marry Nepali citizens legally?

Yes. Foreign nationals can marry Nepali citizens in Nepal when both parties satisfy the legal requirements and complete the prescribed registration process. However, marriage registration does not automatically provide Nepali citizenship or permanent immigration status. The foreign spouse must separately comply with Nepal's immigration requirements after marriage.

Is residence required before court marriage?

Yes. Section 77 of the National Civil Code provides a 15-day residence requirement for marriage by registration. At least one of the parties must have resided in the concerned district for at least 15 days before filing the application. Foreign applicants should obtain appropriate residence evidence and confirm the requirement with the concerned District Court.

Are witnesses required for foreign marriage registration?

Witnesses may be required during the marriage registration procedure, and they should carry acceptable identification documents. The exact requirements can depend on the District Court and circumstances of the application. Foreign couples should confirm the current witness requirement with the concerned court or lawyer before attending the registration appointment.

Can lawyers assist foreign nationals with marriage?

Yes. Lawyers can assist foreign nationals with document review, eligibility assessment, residence requirements, NOC documentation, translations, application preparation, District Court filing and court procedures. They can also provide separate advice on post-marriage immigration matters. Legal assistance does not replace government requirements, and applicants must still provide genuine documents and satisfy the applicable law.

This document is provided by Adalat Lawyers for general informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. For advice on your specific circumstances, please contact our team.

ADALAT LAWYERS