



### **A La Carte Santorini Weddings**

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## **LEGAL PAPERS FOR GREEK ORTHODOX WEDDING**

- ◆ Passport copies of both Bride & Groom
- ◆ Full birth certificates
- ◆ Certificate of no previous marriage, certified by the Archbishop of area of residence.
- ◆ LETTER OF NO IMPEDIMENT or SINGLE STATUS LETTER: For bride and groom. Translated into Greek with an APOSTILLE stamp. "Single Status" is a document issued from your local Registrar and insures that you are free to get married.

If bride or groom is of another religious dogma

(Not Christian Orthodox, but still Christian, a Public Notary's act is required, where it is stated that the children will be baptized Christian Orthodox)

- ◆ Divorce certificate if any
- ◆ Official document about changing your name if any
- ◆ Adoption certificates if any

## **USEFUL INFORMATION**

### **What is an Apostille?**

Apostille is the documentary device with which a government department authenticates a document as genuine, thereby legalizing it for use in another country under the terms laid out in 1961. Once a document has been Apostilled, thereby providing official government authentication of the signatures and stamps appearing on it, it is automatically deemed legalized for use in another country. The apostille must be issued by the state/country where your document has been issued.

### **Why do I need an Apostille?**

Authorities in Greece need proof that (US, AU, etc.) documents or the signatures of (US, AU, etc.) officials on documents are genuine before they accept them.



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### **Translations**

Two months prior to your wedding, you will send us, via e-mail or fax, the original documents with Apostille so that we can visit the registry office and check them and thus be sure that everything is correct. After we obtain the permission from the registry office that everything is in order, you must have all necessary documents translated at your local Greek Embassy or Consulate or official translators who are affiliated with the Greek Embassy or Consulate.

### **Marriage certificate**

Your marriage certificate will be issued in Greek, in 3-4 weeks after your wedding date and we will send it to you via mail. Please contact your local authority and ask what the requirements are in order to accept a Greek Marriage License as binding (e.g. translation into your language, apostille stamp, or other action in accordance with legislation).

- ◆ Marriage Licence or Registration of Marriage or Single Status letter (Letter of No Impediment or Certificate of No Impediment): This is a document issued by your local Hall/Registrars office Government/Town certifying that there is no problem for you to get married. Please check them as they will probably have a time limit of validity. This letter is separate for the Bride and the Groom.
- ◆ The letter of No Impediment or the Single Status letter must be issued no more **than 3 months prior to the wedding date** or else the document will not be valid.
- ◆ All your legal papers after the wedding will be kept by the Town Hall.
- ◆ You must have all the original documents with you in Greece.
- ◆ Also, you must remain in Greece for at least one business day after your wedding, as you will need to sign your Marriage Certificate at the local Town Hall.
- ◆ Please contact your local authority and ask what the requirements are in order to accept a Greek Marriage License as binding (e.g. translation into your language, apostille stamp, or other action in accordance with legislation).