

Application for recognition of marriage entered into according to foreign law

Submit your application to the County Governor of Østfold, Buskerud, Oslo and Akershus

- Please read the instructions on the last page carefully

Information about the older spouse	
Name	
National identity number/DUF number/date of birth	Citizenship
Address	
E-mail address	
Connection to Norway at the time of marriage: <input type="checkbox"/> Norwegian citizen <input type="checkbox"/> foreign citizen with permanent residence permit <input type="checkbox"/> foreign citizen with temporary residence permit <input type="checkbox"/> EEA citizen <input type="checkbox"/> no connection <input type="checkbox"/> other (please describe below) If other, please describe:	
• The connection must be documented, please see (1) in the instructions for more information.	

Information about the youngest spouse	
Name	
National identity number/DUF number/date of birth	Citizenship
Address	
E-mail address	
Connection to Norway at the time of marriage: <input type="checkbox"/> Norwegian citizen <input type="checkbox"/> foreign citizen with permanent residence permit <input type="checkbox"/> foreign citizen with temporary residence permit <input type="checkbox"/> EEA citizen <input type="checkbox"/> no connection <input type="checkbox"/> other (please describe below) If other, please describe:	
• The connection must be documented, please see (1) in the instructions for more information.	

Background for the application

- One or both of you were under the age of 18 at the time of marriage
- One or both of you were already married when the marriage was entered into
- The marriage was entered into without you both being physically present
- You are first cousins or more closely related than first cousins

Information about the marriage ceremony

Date of the marriage ceremony

Where was the marriage ceremony performed? (region and country)

Please explain in more detail how the marriage was entered into

- Documentation that the marriage has taken place must be provided, see (1) in the instructions for more information.

Why should this marriage be recognised?

Use a separate sheet of paper if necessary. Please provide more information about why this marriage should be recognised, see (2) in the instructions.

Why should this marriage be recognised?

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Have you applied for family immigration on the basis of this marriage, or do you plan to do so?

Yes No

Attachments to the application, see (1) in the instructions for more information

I/we wish our marriage to be recognised in Norway

If Section 18c of the Norwegian Marriage Act applies to the marriage (i.e. if one or both parties were under the age of 18 when the marriage was entered into, and neither of the parties had any connection to Norway), the spouse who was under 18 when the marriage took place must sign their own name. Please see (4) of the instructions for more information.

The eldest spouse**The youngest spouse**

Place	Date	Place	Date
Signature, eldest spouse		Signature, youngest spouse	
I am willing to be interviewed if this is necessary for the processing of the application. Please see (6) of the instructions for more information. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		I am willing to be interviewed if this is necessary for the processing of the application. Please see (6) of the instructions for more information. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
I consent to our marriage certificate or equivalent documentation being forwarded to a Norwegian diplomatic station for verification. Please see (7) of the instructions for more information. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		I consent to our marriage certificate or equivalent documentation being forwarded to a Norwegian diplomatic station for verification. Please see (7) of the instructions for more information. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

Please direct any questions concerning how to complete this form to the County Governor of Østfold, Buskerud, Oslo and Akershus.

Instructions

The application will be processed in accordance with Section 18b or Section 18c of the Norwegian Marriage Act.

1. Attachments to the application

You must submit the following documentation:

Documentation of your connection to Norway:

- Copy of both spouses' passports, as well as a copy of the decision to grant residence in Norway, if relevant.
- For EEA citizens: Copy of registration certificate or permanent residence certificate/card.

Documentation that the marriage has taken place:

- Original or certified copy of marriage certificate. The document must have Apostille certification or be legalised in some other way.

If the certificate is in a language other than English, it needs to be translated into Norwegian or English by a certified translator. The translation must specify who did the translation and when. The translation must be submitted as an original or as a certified copy.

The following documentation could also be relevant:

- Documentation of travel to/from Norway and the country where the marriage was entered into in the period before and after the marriage date (e.g. certified copy of passport, including passport stamps, or other travel documents)
- Only applies to proxy marriages: Original or certified copy of the letter of proxy, and translation of this document
- Only applies if one of the spouses was already married: Original or certified copy of documentation that the previous marriage has been dissolved, and translation of this document

2. Information about why the marriage should be recognised

You do not have to fill out this section if neither of you had a strong connection to Norway when the marriage was entered into (Section 18c of the Marriage Act), and

- you are both over 18 years old

- you were both over the age of 16 years the marriage was entered into
- the person who was under the age of 18 when the marriage was entered into, wants the marriage to be recognised

In other cases, it is important that you provide detailed information. The information will be used as a basis for the County Governor's assessment of whether "compelling circumstances" exist for recognition of the marriage. The likelihood of having the marriage recognised in these cases is low. Such marriages are only recognised in special circumstances. That is why it is important that you provide as much information as you can.

You should answer the following questions:

- How did you meet?
- How did the marriage come about?
- What is the reason for the marriage being entered into in a manner that is not recognised in Norway?
- How have you organised your domestic life since you got married?
- If you live in different countries, how do you stay in touch, and how often do you meet?
- Do you have or are you expecting children together?
- Why do you want the marriage to be recognised?
- What are the compelling circumstances you believe exist for your marriage to be recognised?

3. Exchange of information between the County Governor and immigration authorities

The County Governor and immigration authorities may share information if this is necessary to process the application for recognition of the marriage and any application for family immigration on the grounds of marriage, provided that such sharing of information does not constitute disproportionate intervention. Please see Section 4 of the statutory regulations relating to the processing of applications for recognition of marriage pursuant to Sections 18b and 18c of the Norwegian Marriage Act.¹

¹ Norwegian title of these regulations: forskrift om behandling av begjæringer om anerkjennelse av ekteskap etter ekteskapsloven §§ 18 b og 18 c.

4. Signatures

Only one signature is required for the County Governor to process the application.

However, if neither of you had a strong connection to Norway when the marriage was entered into, the signature of the spouse who was under the age of 18 at that time is required to indicate that they wish the marriage to be recognised in Norway. Even so, the marriage could still be recognised without such a signature under very special circumstances. This applies if both spouses were under the age of 18 when the marriage was entered into, and there are compelling reasons to recognise the marriage in Norway.

5. Consequences of the marriage being recognised/not being recognised in Norway

When considering whether or not you wish the marriage to be recognised in Norway, it could be useful to learn more about the consequences if the marriage is/is not recognised. A summary of useful information is included below:

Spouses whose marriage is recognised in Norway, will be considered married in Norway. Spouses whose marriage is not recognised, will be considered unmarried. Your status as either married or unmarried is relevant in several different contexts. Among other things, it could be relevant in the following situations:

- Possibility of being granted a residence permit
If the marriage is not recognised, it cannot be used as a basis for family immigration. Residence could still be granted on a different basis.
- Right to request a divorce or dissolution of the marriage
If the marriage is recognised in Norway, either spouse could request a divorce pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 4 of the Norwegian Marriage Act. A marriage that is not recognised in Norway cannot be dissolved in Norway. If a spouse wants to dissolve the marriage, this has to be done in the country where the marriage was entered into, or in a different country that does recognise the marriage. Division of the marital property also requires that the marriage is recognised.
- Possibility of marrying another
Even though the marriage is not recognised, you can normally not marry another person under Norwegian law until the foreign marriage has been dissolved. Please see Section 4 (2) of the Marriage Act. The reason for requiring dissolution is that the marriage will still be valid in the country

where it was entered into, as well as in any other countries that recognise the marriage.

- Right to spousal inheritance and to retain undivided possession of a deceased spouse's estate

6. Interview

A spouse who was under the age of 18 when the marriage was entered into will be interviewed, unless an interview would be irrelevant for the outcome of the case. A spouse who was over the age of 18 when the marriage was entered into will also be interviewed when an interview is deemed necessary to ensure sufficient clarification of the case.

If you do not consent to an interview, you should be aware that this will impact the outcome of our case. Your application may then be denied.

7. Verification

In some cases, the County Governor may choose to request assistance from a Norwegian diplomatic station in order to have the marriage documentation verified. This primarily applies if the documentation was issued in countries where public documents generally have low credibility, such as in countries with widespread corruption and/or falsification of documents. The term verification refers to the process of investigating if it is possible to determine whether or not the documentation is real and its content accurate.

8. Appeal

The County Governor's decision can be appealed to the Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs (Bufdir) within three weeks of the date on which you receive the decision. Please direct your appeal to the County Governor.

9. Further process

The County Governor will send a copy of their decision, or Bufdir's decision, to the Tax Administration (National Population Register). If the application for recognition of the marriage is granted, the marriage will be registered in the National Population Register. If the application for recognition of the marriage is denied, the marriage will not be registered. The parties will then be registered as "unmarried".

If the County Governor is aware that you have applied for, or are planning to apply for, family immigration on the basis of the marriage, the County Governor will send a copy of their decision to immigration authorities, so that they can, if relevant, continue processing your family immigration application. If the application for recognition of the marriage is denied, immigration authorities will conclude that the parties are not married. The marriage cannot then be used as a basis for family immigration. In some cases, it will still be possible to grant residence on different grounds, such as cohabitation, for example. If your application for recognition of the marriage is granted, immigration authorities will include the marriage in their assessment. However, immigration authorities must still assess whether or not the other conditions for family immigration have been met.