

Marriages of American Citizens in Italy

PLEASE NOTE: All U.S. documents must be legalized with an “APOSTILLE” and accurately translated into Italian. Furthermore, the Italian translation must be legalized by the Italian Consulate that has jurisdiction over the State that issued the document (please refer to “The Consular Network” page on this web site). The legalization carries a cost per page of the original (English) document. Please note: the fee changes every 3 months, please check our Consular Website, on the Consular Services page, Consular Fees link, for the current fee.

Apostilles are issued by the Department of State from the State where the document originated or was notarized (see the link for where to request the Apostille).

U.S. citizens wishing to be married in Italy must appear before the Civil Registrar of the City (“Comune”) where the marriage is to take place, bring two witnesses, and make a declaration of their intention to marry. The couple must also present the following documents:

- 1) Valid U.S. passports and driver licenses.
- 2) Birth certificates in "long form" which include the names of both parents and the town of birth (with Apostille and translation).
- 3) If applicable, a final decree of divorce and/or death certificate of the previous spouse (with Apostille and translation).
- 4) If the American citizen is under legal age, a sworn statement of consent of the marriage by the parents or legal guardian (with Apostille and translation).
- 5) An AFFIDAVIT ("ATTO NOTORIO"), sworn to by two witnesses, who must be over eighteen and unrelated to either of the two parties (not parents or relatives) or to each other, stating that the bride and groom are free to contract marriage.

The sworn witnesses must personally appear before:

- the **Italian Consulate** in the U.S. having jurisdiction over the place of residence (please refer to “The Consular Network” page on this web site).

OR

- a Mayor, Town Clerk or Notary **in Italy**.

Any American citizen going to Italy to be married is advised to obtain this declaration in the United States before leaving, as it may be much easier to find two witnesses in the United States who know him or her sufficiently well to make such a declaration.

The affidavit will state that the witnesses swear under the penalty of perjury that they personally know the U.S. citizens, that they personally know that the U.S. citizens are residents of the U.S., that they personally know that the U.S. citizens have never been married or are now divorced or widowed, that to the best of their knowledge the U.S. citizens are free to marry in accordance with the local laws, and that there are no objections for the U.S. citizens to be married in Italy. The affidavit must be dated less than six month prior to the marriage date.

After the declaration, banns (marriage announcements) must be posted at the local City Hall for eight consecutive days, and four more days must pass before the marriage can take place. Banns are usually waived by the Vital Statistic Registrar (“Ufficiale dello Stato Civile”) if neither spouse is an Italian or is residing in Italy. Please confirm with the U.S. Consulate in Italy or with the City Hall (“Comune”) to see if this applies to you.

On the fourth day following the eight days on which the banns are posted, the couple may be married, in a civil ceremony performed by the Civil Registrar, or in a religious ceremony performed by a clergyman. In order to validate it, **THE CLERGYMAN MUST REGISTER THE MARRIAGE** with the “Ufficiale dello Stato Civile”.

6) A Declaration, sworn to by the U.S. citizens who intend to marry in Italy before an American Consular officer in Italy, stating that according to the United States laws there are no obstacles to their marriage (please call the U.S. Consulate at the phone numbers provided below to arrange an appointment);

U.S. Embassy Rome	rome.usembassy.gov	Tel. +1 39 06.46741
U.S. Consulate General Milan	milan.usconsulate.gov	Tel. +1 39 02.290351
U.S. Consulate General Florence	florence.usconsulate.gov	Tel. +1 39 055.266951
U.S. Consulate General Naples	naples.usconsulate.gov	Tel. +1 39 081.5838111
U.S. Consular Agency Genoa	usconsge@libero.it	Tel. +1 39 010.584492
U.S. Consular Agency Palermo	uscitizenpalermo@state.gov	Tel. +1 39 091.305857
U.S. Consular Agency Venice	veniceconsularagent@libero.it	Tel. +1 39 041.5415944

Once you have completed the civil ceremony, you are considered married under the laws of some States like New York. Please consult the laws in other States to see if the same applies there. It is however suggested that you send the marriage certificate (legalized with the Apostille in Italy at the local “Prefettura”) to the U.S. Consulate in Italy in order to have it registered with the U.S. Authorities.

RELIGIOUS MARRIAGES: Because the Vatican is a separate State and not part of Italy, please contact your parish priest in order to obtain information on the procedure.