



Rules for marrying abroad

Guidelines/brochures | Date: 04/12/2019 | [Ministry of Children and Families](#)

(<http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/bfd/id298/>)

The Norwegian Marriage Act regulates recognition of marriages entered into abroad.

Marriages entered into abroad will not be recognised in Norway if one or both of the parties is a Norwegian citizen or resident of Norway when the marriage was entered into and:

- one of the parties is a minor, i.e. under 18 years of age, when they get married,
- the marriage has been entered into without both parties being present during the wedding ceremony (telephone marriages or proxy marriages), or
- one of the parties is already married.

Following a petition from both parties, the marriage may nonetheless be recognised if there are strong grounds for doing so. This is a narrow exemption provision that is practised very strictly. It is therefore rare for such a marriage to provide grounds for family reunification. Applications for recognition are to be sent to the [The County Governor of Oslo og Viken](#)

(<https://www.fylkesmannen.no/en/People-and-society/Subsequent-validation-of-a-marriage/>), which can also provide guidance in this area. More information about subsequent validation of marriages can be found at the County Governor's [home page](#) (<https://www.fylkesmannen.no/en/People-and-society/Subsequent-validation-of-a-marriage/>).