

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR OBTAINING A MARRIAGE LICENCE IN BARBADOS**

There is no waiting period to get married in Barbados, therefore couples may get married on the same day of arrival on the island. The laws of Barbados allow an official marriage ceremony to take place as soon as a licence is obtained.

Application for a marriage licence must be made by **both** parties in person, at the office of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Monday to Friday 8: 00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.. Special arrangements can be made, for a fee, when couples arrive on a weekend or holiday and wish to get married the same day.

### **Documents Required**

Valid Passports and the original or certified copies of the applicants' birth certificates and identification card. This is in order to verify the spelling of the names;

If either party was married previously and widowed, an original or certified copy of the marriage certificate **and** death certificate in respect of the deceased spouse;

If either party was divorced, an original Decree Absolute or Final Judgement. **The Decree Nisi is not accepted.**

Persons who have been granted Barbadian citizenship – either by Decent, Registration or Naturalization, Immigration Status or Permanent Residence, are required to produce the original document issued by the Immigration Department of Barbados or the passport in which the relevant information has been stamped.

Non-nationals who have been granted work permits must produce the passport showing that a work permit was issued to them, or the relevant document issued by the Immigration Department, **not** the application form or receipt.

**Please note that a work permit does not confer status and should be valid at the time of application.**

Please also note that no marriage will be issued for a date which is beyond the expiry date of any visitor's stay in Barbados.

N.B. All documents not in English **must** be accompanied by an official translation certified by an authorized Notary Public **(NOT A JUSTICE OF PEACE)**.

### **Prior Arrangements**

Arrangements should be made with a Marriage Officer (a Magistrate or a Minister of Religion authorized to be a Marriage Officer in Barbados) prior to the completion of an application form for the marriage licence. **A letter from the Marriage Officer who has consented to perform the marriage ceremony should be presented at the time of filing the application.**

A non- resident Minister of Religion who is requested to solemnize a marriage in Barbados must first obtain a temporary Marriage Officer's Licence in Barbados.

Information outlining this procedure can be obtained by contacting the Ministry of Home Affairs.

### **Dress Code**

Persons visiting the Ministry of Home Affairs to conduct business should be properly attired at all times; swimwear, micro shorts, armhole vests or transparent clothing should not be worn.

### **Business Hours**

Applications for marriage licenses must be made between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. The offices of the Ministry of Home Affairs are be closed on weekends and public holidays.