

Information Sheet
Marriage in Djibouti

Last Update – June 2009

All foreigners wishing to get married in Djibouti, either to another foreigner or a Djiboutian, must register the marriage with the Ministry of Interior for it to be considered valid. Foreigners must fulfill two conditions to register a marriage in Djibouti: both parties must have resided, and/or must have the legal permit to reside, a minimum of three months in the country at the time of the request for marriage registration. If this condition is met, the applicants must apply for a marriage license at the Ministry of Interior's Office of Population (Direction de la Population) and provide the required documents listed below. Once the application is complete, the Population Office will arrange an appointment with the Office of the Mayor of Djibouti to perform the marriage ceremony. The Population Office will inform the applicant, at the time of application, of the date and time of the appointment. The Population Office charges DJF 50,000 (or approximately USD 283) in fees to review and process the documents and for performing the marriage ceremony at the Mayor's Office. The whole process takes approximately 7 days. The marriage certificate is issued immediately upon completion of the marriage ceremony.

The following documents must be provided by foreigners to the Office of Population:

1. Birth certificate.
2. Passport, with visa that has at least 3 months validity.
Note: Visa regulations have changed. Those applicants not in a position to obtain or renew their visas to show the required validity of 3 months need to have a residence permit, called "Carte de Séjour."
3. Evidence of legal eligibility to marry (For example, if divorced, previous marriage certificate and the divorce decree dissolving the marriage).
4. Pre-marital medical examination certificate. This can be made by any medical doctor in Djibouti, specifying that it is for marriage purpose.
5. National identity card.
6. Photocopies of IDs of the two witnesses, one for each party.
7. If a marriage contract had been made before a notary public, a copy of the contract (this will be mentioned on the marriage certificate).
8. Certificate of Residence, provided by the Djibouti Prefecture (there is a stamp fee of DJF 600 for this document and it usually takes a day or two to establish).

The Office of Population is open 7:00 a.m to 01:00 p.m. Saturday through Thursday (except on public holidays) and is located at Blvd. de la République, opposite the main Post Office, P.O. Box 3911, Djibouti.

Point of contact: Mrs. Mariam Abdo (No telephone in office; walk-in services; for limited and strictly discretionary use, she provided her cell phone number-83.18.66).

The Mayor's Office and the Djibouti Prefecture, open 7:00 a.m. to 01:00 p.m. Saturday through Thursday (except on public holidays), are both located at the east of Independence square (Place du 27 juin), in the Ministry of Interior building in Djibouti City, P.O. Box 21, Djibouti.

Mayor's Office Telephone number: 35-13-69; Fax: 35-13-67.

Djibouti Prefecture Telephone number: 35-11-76/35-14-62; Fax: 35-46-12

Note- French (most widely used) and Arabic are the official languages of communication, oral and written.