

## Evidence of a Bona Fide Marriage

You have to prove that there is a genuine marriage between you and the beneficiary. Do not send your petition without this information!

**REQUIRED:** You must attach a copy of your marriage certificate.

**In addition to your marriage certificate,** you need to provide **two or more** of the following documents:

1. Legible copies of your and your spouse's driver's licenses and/or identity cards from the appropriate state's motor vehicle department.
2. Legible copies of the civilly registered birth certificate for any child(ren) born to you and the petitioning spouse.
3. Copies of bank statements that reflect joint savings and/or checking accounts to include the transaction pages for each bank statement provided.
4. Copies of mortgage agreements, deeds or other instruments affecting the title to real estate that demonstrates joint ownership of assets or property.
5. Copies of joint insurance policies such as life insurance, medical insurance, vehicle insurance, etc.
6. Copies of joint credit card statements.
7. Copies of joint loan documents such as car loans, home improvement loans, business loans, etc.
8. Copies of your joint State and Federal tax returns. Also include all required schedules, statements and any attachments such as W-2 records.
9. Copies of rental leases/agreements showing joint tenancy at a common residence signed by you, the petitioning spouse and the owner(s) of the property (or the property manager).
10. Copies of joint utility bills such as telephone, gas, electric, water, cable, internet, etc. or other statements issued in both names indicating the residential address.
11. If applicable, submit copies of military Basic Allowance for Quarters (BAQ) form for housing and/or DD Form 1172 for dependant military dependant cards.
12. Any other documentation which shows that the marriage was not entered into in order to circumvent U.S. immigration laws.

While a minimum of two of the documents listed in items 1-12 above plus your marriage certificate might be sufficient, you are strongly encouraged to include as many pieces of documentation as you can obtain. Simply sending receipts showing that you have provided money to your spouse may not be sufficient to establish a bona fide marriage. Pictures generally don't help. Don't cut corners here. Failure to provide significant evidence is a common reason for denial. We can't determine what is "enough" evidence since every case is different. Just send everything you have and the USCIS will determine if it is adequate on a case-by-case basis.

Note: Send only photocopies. The USCIS will request original copies if necessary (unlikely).

### IMPORTANT

If any of these documents are not in English, you will need to include a translation. Anybody can do the translation. The person doing the translation must sign their name at the bottom of the translation and state the following:

**"I certify that I am competent to translate (put foreign language name here) to English, and that this is a complete and correct translation".**

Beware of anyone trying to sell you "official" or "certified" translations. There is no official certification process for translations that is recognized by the USCIS.

.....DO NOT MAIL WITH VISA PACKAGE.....

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