

# Documents checklist for same-sex marriage in Portugal

A practical Same Vibes guide to preparing the official civil marriage file

Prepare the right documents before you travel.

## Quick answer

Do not order documents blindly. The exact marriage file depends on both partners' citizenships, residence, marital status, names, previous marriages and the countries that issued the documents.

Same Vibes reviews the case first and then gives you the document route that applies. We check what each partner can obtain, what needs apostille or legalization, what needs certified translation and what should be corrected before the Portuguese civil registry process begins.

The goal is to prepare the file before you travel, so you come to Portugal for the official appointment instead of trying to solve document problems at the last minute.

**Not sure which documents apply to your case?**

Check your case: <https://same-vibes.com/en/check-your-case/>

## Before you start

This checklist is for international same-sex couples preparing an official civil marriage in Portugal. It is a starting point, not a substitute for a case-specific review.

- You and your partner have different citizenships or residence countries
- One of you was previously married
- Names are written differently across documents
- Your country does not issue a standard certificate of matrimonial capacity
- Documents were issued outside the Hague Apostille system
- You are unsure which originals, certified copies or translations are required

## Core document categories

- Valid passports or accepted identity documents for both partners
- Birth certificates in the required format
- Evidence that each partner is legally free to marry when required
- Documents proving the end of any previous marriage
- Documents explaining legal name changes or spelling differences

## Documents that depend on your situation

Some documents are needed only in certain cases. Same Vibes confirms the exact list before you spend time or money obtaining them.

Document or issue	Why it matters	Same Vibes role
<b>Certificate of matrimonial capacity or no impediment</b>	May be required to show that a person is free to marry	We check whether your country issues it and what alternative may apply
<b>Divorce judgment or divorce certificate</b>	Needed if one partner was previously married	We confirm the acceptable proof and preparation route
<b>Death certificate of a previous spouse</b>	Needed when a previous marriage ended through death	We check format, legalization and translation requirements
<b>Name-change or transliteration evidence</b>	Explains differences between passports, birth records and civil-status documents	We identify inconsistencies before filing
<b>Apostille or legalization</b>	Makes a foreign public document usable in Portugal when required	We explain which documents need it and which do not
<b>Certified translation</b>	May be required when a document cannot be used in its original language	We coordinate the required translation format
<b>Recent issue date or validity period</b>	Some civil-status documents must be recent	We confirm timing before you order the document
<b>Interpreter for the appointment</b>	Required when Portuguese is not understood and the registry needs interpretation	We arrange the interpreter when needed

*Send clear scans first. Same Vibes can review the document route before confirming which originals or certified copies must be obtained.*

## How the document process works

- 1 Send your case**  
Tell us both citizenships, residence countries, marital status, previous marriages, name differences and what documents you already have.
- 2 Receive a case-specific checklist**  
Same Vibes identifies the document route for each partner instead of giving you a generic list.
- 3 Obtain the right documents**  
You request only the documents that actually apply to your case.
- 4 We check consistency**  
We review names, dates, document formats, issue dates and possible mismatches before filing.
- 5 Apostille and translation are coordinated**  
We explain what requires legalization or translation and in what order.
- 6 The registry file is prepared**  
The Portuguese civil registry process is coordinated before your official appointment.
- 7 You travel when the route is ready**  
You come to Portugal after the file and appointment route are confirmed.

## Common mistakes to avoid

- Ordering documents before the route is reviewed
- Ignoring spelling or transliteration differences
- Obtaining an apostille for the wrong version of a document
- Booking non-refundable travel before the case is confirmed
- Assuming both partners need the same documents
- Using an old civil-status document without checking validity
- Using a translation that does not meet the required format

**Same Vibes checks the file before the appointment. You do not need to manage the Portuguese document route alone.**

## Common questions

### Do both partners need the same documents?

Not always. Each partner's list can differ because citizenship, residence, marital history and document-issuing country may be different.

### Do we always need birth certificates?

The required file depends on the route and the documents available in each country. Same Vibes confirms what applies before you order anything.

### What if our country does not issue a certificate of no impediment?

Same Vibes checks whether an alternative document or declaration can be used for your route.

### Can translations be completed anywhere?

The translation must be acceptable for the Portuguese process. We confirm the required format and coordinate it when needed.

### Can we send scans before obtaining originals?

Yes. Clear scans are useful for the first case review. We then confirm which originals or certified copies are required.

### Do we need all documents before contacting Same Vibes?

No. Contact us before ordering documents. We first check your situation and explain the realistic route.

## Next step

Send us your citizenships, residence, marital status and the documents you already have. We will review the situation and explain the next realistic step.

**Check your case:** <https://same-vibes.com/en/check-your-case/>

**Read the documents page:** <https://same-vibes.com/en/documents/>

**Website:** <https://same-vibes.com/en/>

**WhatsApp:** <https://wa.me/351935900533>

**Telegram:** <https://t.me/+351935900533>

**info@the-o.legal:** [info@the-o.legal](mailto:info@the-o.legal)

**Prepare the right file first. Travel to Portugal when the official route is ready.**