

Legal Age

The legal age to get married in Puerto Rico is 14 for girls and 16 for boys. If you are 21 or younger you will need your parents authorization. For more information contact Mrs. Pachie Leguillow at the Demographics Office at the hospital (787-741-1827).

Blood Tests (only for PR residents)

You both need to get a blood test (VDRL) within 10 days of the wedding date. This can be done here in Vieques at either the hospital lab or in town at the Laboratorio Santa Lucia (787-741-8790). The fee is inexpensive, around \$10. The lab at the hospital opens at 6:30 a.m. on weekdays. The test is done one time a day and the results are usually ready the next day. **Be sure to ask the lab when the results will be done so you will know when to pick them up.** The tests are not done on holidays when the labs are either closed or opened for half the day only. Puerto Rico celebrates more holidays than in the continental United States

If either and/or both parties have been **married previously**, you **MUST** have your divorce decree(s) and/or death certificate at this time to show at the Demographics Office at the hospital, and the Wedding Officiator. Puerto Rican law requires the Wedding Officiator to list the other person involved in the divorce/death, the date and the county and state.

Special Note: Effective on March 12, 2008 Only for Puerto Rico residents, to get married in Puerto Rico you must also have a Chlamydia and Gonorrhea test done. The cost of these tests is about \$60 for both. The tests are not done in Vieques yet, so it will take about 5-7 days for these results to get back to the Lab in Vieques.

Non Puerto Rico Residents Special Note: Effective on August 11, 2010

Required a Medical Certificate certifying that the bride and the groom comply with all local / state medical requirement for marriage; for the state that you legally reside in. You must present to our authorities a government issued photo Id from the state that you legally reside in. Also a Notorized Affidavit is requeried stating that: a) you are not a resident of Puerto Rico, b) that the purpose of your visit to Puerto Rico is to get married, c) and indicate your legal address (this should match the address listed on your photo ID).

Required Puerto Rico Stamps

Two stamps are required. This is like a tax. You need a \$20 stamp and a \$5 stamp. These can be purchased at the "Colecturía" across from "Ferretería Bonano (Chu Garcia)" in town. You need the \$20 stamp for the health certificate. You give the \$5 stamp to the Wedding Officiator so he/she turn it in with the paperwork after the wedding.

Pick Up the Blood Test Results

Take the blood test results to the Demographics Office at the hospital. (Inside front door of hospital. First hallway on the Right. Third door on the Left.) The woman you need to see is Pachie (phone 787-741-1827). She goes to lunch from noon until 1:00pm, so please plan around her lunch hour.

Show Pachie your blood test results, and she will give you the form to take to a doctor in the hospital for your health certificate.

Health Certificate

Go to the "Cajero" (cashier) Office in the hospital. It is in the lobby on the right. Tell the woman that you need to see a doctor for your health certificate to get married. The fee is around \$10.00, which you pay at this office.

Then you will follow her instructions so you can see a doctor to get the health certificate completed. If you need assistance, ask Pachie to help you. She wants to make sure the process is fast and easy for you.

After You Have a Completed Health Certificate

After you have the completed health certificate form, go back to Pachie and show her everything to make sure all the paperwork is completed correctly.

You give the completed paperwork to the Wedding Officiator

When you and the Wedding offiator meet, you will give he/she the licensing form, the doctor's completed health certificate, and the \$5 stamp is necessary for the Wedding Officiator to see your divorce(s) and/or death certificate(s) to complete the licensing form.

He/She will complete the remainder of your licensing form after your ceremony and take it and the \$5 stamp back to Pachie on the first workday following your wedding. She will process everything. This usually takes a full day.

If you are still in Vieques at this time, you may pick up the form from her. Be sure to check for accuracy. The marriage certificate she gives you will be in Spanish and English. You will let the Wedding Officiator know if you plan to pick up the marriage certificate.

If you are not in Vieques when the marriage certificate is done, the Wedding Officiator will pick it up and mail it to you.