

WHY MARRY?



There are a lot of reasons to marry. One of them is solidarity. In practical terms, this means to support migrants to get a legal residence status through a marriage. That kind of marriage is what this flyer is all about. We want to briefly describe the procedure of such a marriage and what you should be aware of. Furthermore we want to introduce our offer to support so-called "protective marriage" to get a legal residence status. It's about sharing experiences, that have already been made in this kind of marriage. We'll gladly speak with you about your planned intention. If you are thinking about whether a marriage is worth considering for you, please contact us, so we can arrange a date for further exchange.

WHAT EXACTLY DOES IT LOOK LIKE? WHAT IS COMPLICATED ABOUT IT?

A „protective marriage“ can be very different, each is unique. A classic heterosexual marriage as well as a same-sex civil partnership can lead to the receipt of a residence permit. It is important to clarify your common basis: The receipt of a residence permit is a lengthy and exhausting process. Friendships or even (love) relationships will be put to the test.

It takes years before a concrete residence entitlement is reached. In this period you have to at least reckon that you are going to be in contact with the Foreigners' Registration Office and that you will have to deal with the bureaucracy together. During this time it is a good idea to live in the same city and to think about where you can be registered together. You will also possibly have to handle with changes of your personal circumstances – change of address or the desire to have children do make getting a residence permit more complicated, but not impossible.

**DON'T
DO IT ON
YOUR OWN!**



We highly recommend that the two of you do not approach such a project on your own. Whatever your relationship is like, further trusted persons who support you are important! Because to get the required papers, organize the marriage, handle difficulties with public authorities or your financial situation, it's better if these situations can also be supported by others.

AND AFTER THE MARRIAGE?

Once you have got the papers and have married, the formalities with the Foreigners' Registration Office begin. After the application of your joint place of residence you can apply for a residence permit. From this moment on it takes at least three years to acquire an independent right of residence, depending on the employment status and income it can also take longer.

After the grant of an independent right of residence, the divorce can be started with the year of separation. The divorce itself can take long as well.

Scheidung



**NOTHING
COMES FOR FREE:
MARRIAGE AND
DIVORCE ARE
EXPENSIVE!**



A marriage and also a divorce cost a lot of money: You have to get papers, make use of legal advice and bear in mind there will be additional costs. Clarify the responsibilities for the costs arising beforehand, so that you are not taken aback by them and no stress occurs between you. We can gladly give you contacts to reliable Lawyers.

LEGAL INFORMATION

In Germany the marriage (§ 1353 BGB) is protected by the Basic Law (Art. 6 GG). That means that the state is generally obliged to take marital and family relations into account. But there is no protection for the so-called "sham marriage". It can be punished with a monetary fine or, in theory, imprisonment. For the spouse without right of residence a "revealed" protective marriage means expulsion, deportation or even the withdrawal of a safe status. In cases of suspicion the Foreigners Authority may undertake separated interviews about the personal life or arrange a police investigation, which may include a house search. In order to decide what behavior is appropriate in such a case, you should always seek the advice of a lawyer. Here, too, we can support you.

