

If you are arrested or detained, you can request that the arresting officer inform the nearest Canadian government office abroad. You will need a Mexican lawyer, and the office can refer you to one who speaks English or French.

Meanwhile, be aware that what you say can be used against you. Avoid making any arrangements with police or court officials unless your lawyer is present. Do not sign anything in Spanish, if you do not understand the language, without the permission of your lawyer.

Getting Married

Canada has no restrictions for Canadian citizens who wish to get married in a foreign country. You will need to present yourself to the Civil Registry Office in Mexico with the following documentation in order to get a marriage licence:

- your Canadian passport;
- your birth certificate (original and copy). The birth certificate must be translated into Spanish and certified by the nearest Mexican consulate to your residence in Canada prior to your departure;
- a blood test (original and copy). The blood test should be a recent one, taken within 15 days of requesting the marriage licence. It should

have the seal of the laboratory or be signed by a physician. It is recommended that you obtain your blood test right before your departure or once you are in Mexico;

- your tourist card (original and copy); and
- if you are divorced, the divorce certificate, certified by the Mexican consulate in Canada.

In addition, you will need two witnesses, one for the bride and one for the groom.

You will need to legalize your marriage certificate for use in Canada. To do this, you will have to contact both authorities of the Mexican state where you were married and Mexican federal authorities, as well as the Canadian Embassy or nearest Canadian consulate. It is recommended that you call the Civil Registry Office on arrival to confirm requirements.

Communications

The Mexican telecommunications network has improved appreciably since long-distance and value-added services were privatized, but the system is still well below Canadian standards. Service in some areas is sporadic, and long-distance charges are high and