

DOCUMENTATION CHECKLIST FOR MARRIAGE-BASED IMMIGRATION MATTERS

Unless otherwise indicated, copies or electronic scans of documents listed below are sufficient initially. PDFs or screen prints of web-based documents can also be provided. Originals will be required at a later time.

□ Personal Documentation

- Birth certificates (front-side and back-side) of the US Citizen and the Foreign National, with English translations, if applicable.
- Certificate of Citizenship or Certificate of Naturalization of the US Citizen, if applicable.
- Passports: EVERY page of both of your current passports and any passport(s) that the Foreign National has ever used to enter the United States.
- Birth certificates for any children either of you may have, together or separately.
- Children's passports: EVERY page of the passport of each child accompanying you to the United States, if any.
- A scan/copy of any visas, I-94 card, I-20, DS-2019 or any other US immigration paperwork of the Foreign National, if any.
- Marriage certificates (front and back) from prior marriages you may have previously entered into, together with a divorce certificate from each such marriage.

□ Personal Correspondence

- Cards and letters you have exchanged.
- E-mails you have exchanged or a print-out of an email in-box showing emails between you.
- Telephone bills identifying calls you have made or texts you have sent to each other.
- Facebook or other social media messages or images.
- Correspondence with your friends or family that name and discuss your spouse or fiancé(e).

□ Joint Financials

- Joint financial statements such as bank accounts, mutual trust accounts and insurance policies in your joint names.
- Insurance policies (health, life, property, automobile) naming you both as joint title holders.
- Wills naming each other as primary beneficiaries.
- Mortgage and other paperwork evidencing joint title to the real estate and other property (such as cars) you have owned or own in your joint names.
- Leases or rental agreements in your joint names.

□ Joint Residence and shared lives (if applicable)

- Any documents demonstrating that you live(d) together.
- Mortgages, leases, etc.
- Government identity cards or documents.
- Automobile records.
- Utility bills, insurance statements, and other commercial correspondence.
- Memberships in clubs, organizations, athletic facilities, etc.

☐ Photographs spanning the course of your relationship

- Photographs of the two of you together in multiple different locations, and especially with a variety of other people. Photos of you with people writing affidavits are especially helpful.
- Photographs of the wedding (except for fiancé(e) visas).

☐ Evidence of Wedding and Legal Marriage (or of plans to marry, for fiancé(e) visas)

- Marriage Certificate (front and back).
- Invoices for room rental, catering, videographer, photographer.
- Wedding invitations and announcement.
- Photographs.
- A picture of you wearing your engagement or wedding rings, and a copy of the invoice(s) for them.
- For fiancé(e) visas, a statement of intention to marry within 90 days of entering the United States.

☐ Evidence of trips you may have taken together

- Airline tickets and boarding passes.
- Receipts for hotel stays.
- Photographs of the two of you "on location."

☐ Tax Records and Income

- Copies of the last three (3) years of US Federal tax returns.
- All W-2 forms and/or 1099 forms for the last three (3) years.
- Employment confirmation letter for the US Citizen, including date of hire, salary, & title.
- Recent pay stubs (2 or 3) of the US Citizen.

- If the above are unavailable, documents reflecting your liquid assets (details regarding this item are to be provided at a later time).

□ Evidence of Intent to Re-establish US Domicile (if US citizen resides abroad), such as:

- Evidence of prospective employment in the US (or good faith search for employment).
- Efforts to locate a place to live in the US.
- Efforts to abandon your residence abroad.

□ Affidavits from friends and family

- Addressing the bona fides of your relationship, including when you first mentioned your partner, statements you've made to them about your relationship, their impressions of you as a couple, and anecdotes of you two together.
- Ideally attaching photographs they may have with you.
- Detailed guidance for drafting affidavits, with samples, will be provided to you. (Maximum of 4, unless more are needed as set forth in engagement agreement.)

□ Personal Statements

- Personal statements from each of the couple discussing the relationship, how you met, your feelings for each other, anecdotes your lives together, your engagement and wedding, and your hopes for the future. The reasons for this include:
 - To show your bona fide relationship.
 - So that you remember similar details when you attend the interview. From experience couples can remember things differently, so reviewing and discussing each others' statements is excellent preparation;
 - Provides a useful way to organize photographs and other evidence when referenced as Exhibits;
 - To help confirm my understanding of your circumstances; and
 - To give USCIS an overview of your relationship prior to your interview.

□ Passport-Style Photographs of Each of You

- Two (2) photos of Petitioner (the US Citizen), and four (4) photos of Beneficiary (the Foreign National).
- Photos must be 2" x 2" and in color with full face, frontal view on a white/off-white background. Head height should be 1" to 1-3/8" from bottom and head must be bare unless head-ware is required by a religious order. Avoid shadows and to ensure that head is centered.