



Name of Country and Jurisdiction:
Republic of Cyprus

- 1. What forms of legally recognized relationships are available?
- 2. What are the requirements to be able to enter into the above relationships?
- 3. Differences between marriage and civil unions and how the two sets of laws interact.
- 4. What kinds of pre-existing relationships make you ineligible to enter each kind of relationship?
- 5. When a couple comes to Cyprus, is their pre-existing relationship recognized? If not, is there any formalized avenue for obtaining recognition?
- 6. How can each form of relationship be dissolved? What is the residency requirement or other link to Cyprus for an authority to grant a divorce/ dissolution?



1. What forms of legally recognized relationships are available?



| LEGAL RECOGNITIONS FOR OPPOSITE-SEX COUPLE | GEOGRAPHY | LAW | AVAILABLE TO SAME-SEX COUPLE? |
|--|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Marriage, registered | Republic of Cyprus | Republic of Cyprus Marriage Law of 2003 (104(I)/2003) | No |
| Civil union | Republic of Cyprus | Republic of Cyprus Civil Union Law of 2015 (184(I)/2015) | Yes |
| Marriage, registered | Northern Cyprus (also known as the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus”) ¹ | Article 35(2) of the 1985 Constitution of Northern Cyprus | No |

¹ Northern Cyprus (also known as the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus”) remains a *de facto* divided territory occupied by Turkey since 1974. The EU has not formally recognized Northern Cyprus, but a Turkish-endorsed government controls Northern Cyprus as a sovereign jurisdiction.

Q

2. What are the requirements to be able to enter into the above relationships?

A

(i) Geographic requirements:

| FORM OF LEGAL RELATIONSHIP | REQUIREMENTS |
|----------------------------|--|
| Civil union | There are no geographic residency requirements to enter into civil unions in Cyprus. |

(ii) Other substantive eligibility criteria:

| FORM OF LEGAL RELATIONSHIP | REQUIREMENTS |
|----------------------------|---|
| Civil union | <p>Under Sections 5 and 11 of the Republic of Cyprus Civil Union Law of 2015 (184(I)/2015):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) A person must be at least 18 years of age to enter into a civil union; ii) A civil union cannot be contracted between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Direct- or indirect-line blood relatives up to the fifth degree; b) Relatives by direct or indirect line of affinity up to the third degree; or c) An adopted and an adopting person or their descendants. |

Q

3. If both marriage and civil unions exist:

- (a) Identify any significant differences in eligibility; and
- (b) Briefly highlight how they interact if both are in effect (e.g., in some countries, entering into a marriage with the same or a different person automatically dissolves any civil union that the two parties were previously party to, making the latter vulnerable and potentially circumventing separation laws).
- (c) If both marriage and civil unions are available to same-sex couples, briefly highlight areas where major differences exist between marriage and civil unions (e.g., taxes, adoption, immigration, etc.).

A

| | |
|---------|---|
| (a)–(c) | Not applicable. Cyprus does not allow same-sex couples to contract marriages. |
|---------|---|

Q

4. What kinds of pre-existing relationships make you ineligible to enter each kind of relationship?

A

| FORM OF LEGAL RELATIONSHIP | REQUIREMENTS |
|----------------------------|--|
| Civil union | A person cannot contract a civil union if he or she is currently married or is a partner in another civil union. |

Q

5. When a couple comes to Cyprus, is their pre-existing relationship recognized? If not, is there any formalized avenue for obtaining recognition?

A

| FORM OF LEGAL RELATIONSHIP | REQUIREMENTS |
|----------------------------|---|
| Civil union | The Republic of Cyprus recognizes civil unions legally entered into outside the Republic. Republic of Cyprus Civil Union Law of 2015 (184(I)/2015), § 43. |

Q

6. How can each form of relationship be dissolved? What is the residency requirement or other link to Cyprus for an authority to grant a divorce/ dissolution?

A

| FORM OF LEGAL RELATIONSHIP | REQUIREMENTS |
|----------------------------|--|
| Civil union | <p>Under Section 17 of the Republic of Cyprus Civil Union Law of 2015 (184(I)/2015), a legally contracted civil union can be dissolved by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) A written joint statement before the registrar who granted the civil union; ii) An order of the court of the district in which the civil union was contracted, issued at the request of one of the partners; or iii) The two partners' contracting a marriage. <p>At the request of either partner, a civil union that was contracted despite the requirements of Sections 5 and 11 of the Republic of Cyprus Civil Union Law of 2015 (184(I)/2015) not having been met can be dissolved within three years of its creation by an order of the court of the district that granted the civil union. Republic of Cyprus Civil Union Law of 2015 (184(I)/2015), §§ 13–14.</p> |

Sources:

- Republic of Cyprus Marriage Law of 2003 (104(I)/2003), available in English for download at http://www.ucm.org.cy/Document-The_Marriage_Law_%28in_English%29,967,35,English.
- Republic of Cyprus Civil Union Law of 2015 (184(I)/2015), available at <http://www.cygazette.com/Gazette.dll/%7BF5506163-832A-47F5-B269-C2A3396DICE2%7D/AppPgView?IssueNo=4543&PageNo=0&AppNo=1&PartNo=1&IssueDate=7/1/2011>.



- 1985 Constitution of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, *available in English at* <http://www.cypnet.co.uk/ncyprus/main/polsyst/constitution/index.html>.
- Republic of Cyprus Ministry of Interior, *Information Guide for Citizens Regarding Procedures Established by the Civil Union Law, available in English at* [http://moi.gov.cy/MOI/moi.nsf/0/E0FCB722CC73BB8FC2257F470026E71C/\\$file/01-INFORMATION%20GUIDE%20FOR%20CITIZENS.pdf](http://moi.gov.cy/MOI/moi.nsf/0/E0FCB722CC73BB8FC2257F470026E71C/$file/01-INFORMATION%20GUIDE%20FOR%20CITIZENS.pdf).
- European Union Coordination Centre, Prime Minister's Office, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, *The Review of Council Regulation (EC) No 44/2001 on Jurisdiction and the Recognition and Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters, available in English at* http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/civil/opinion/files/090630/other__governments/turkish__republic_of__northern__cyprus__en.pdf.