

Excerpt from the Marriage Act:

Anyone over the age of 18 who is not already married and living in Norway legally can enter into marriage.

All marriages must be entered into voluntarily. Men and women have the same right to choose their own marriage partner. The Penal Code states that any person who forces another person into marriage using violence, deprivation of liberty, coercion or threats can be punished by up to six years of imprisonment. Complicity is punishable in the same way.

If a person decides that he or she no longer wishes to live together with their spouse, he or she can seek separation.

After the couple has been separated for one year, they can apply for a divorce. If no separation is sought, but the couple leaves apart for two years, they can also be granted a divorce. Men and women have the same right to seek separation and apply for a divorce.

A spouse can demand a divorce without separation if the other spouse has attempted to kill him or her or their children or been violent towards them, severely abused them or behaved in a manner that arouse grave fear of such conduct. A spouse can also demand a divorce if he or she has been forced into the marriage.

There are also rights attached to residence permits if one breaks out of marriage for these reasons.

Marriage rights and obligations

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