

Legal Advocacy Project
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DOCUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF GOOD FAITH MARRIAGE

To qualify for a VAWA self-petition, it is important to prove that the marriage was entered into in “good faith”, or for love, not for the purpose of receiving immigration benefits.

The requested evidence listed will strengthen showing of good faith marriage to support your written declaration.

Primary Evidence

- Civil marriage certificate/ or divorce judgement
- Religious marriage certificate
- Children’s birth certificate
- Identification of U.S. citizen spouse such as passport or state issued driver’s license, your ID’s must show the same address.
- Joint bank accounts and copies of joint bank ATM cards
- Joint tax returns or where the petitioner (you) are listed as the dependent
- Credit cards where you are an additional cardholder
- Real property deeds showing joint tenancy (ex. joint accounts for mutual funds, stocks, 401k, etc.)
- Apartment lease of all addresses lived together.
- Life insurance policy where spouse is names beneficiary
- Medical or health insurance
- Joint utility bills, bill statements with both you and your spouse’s name (ex. gas, phone, electricity, etc.)
- Evidence of joint ownership of car, joint auto insurance and/or registration

- Joint credit contracts of major purchases made together, (Ex. Furniture, appliances, cars, etc.)
- Children's school records listing both spouse and petitioner
- Children's medical records both spouse and petitioner

Secondary Evidence

- Wedding photographs or engagement photographs
- Photos of vacations and/or special events (Ex. Birthdays, baptisms, graduations, parties etc.)
- Children's baptismal certificates
- Letter from landlord stating that both you and your spouse lived together
- Copies of rent receipts
- Letter from employer stating the change in records of your marital status
- Letter from employer designating spouse as person to notify in case of an accident, sickness or emergency
- Joint Membership (Ex. AAA cards, Employment Cards, Gym Membership Etc.)
- Joint Warehouse Club Membership (Ex. Costco, Sam's Club, Macys, Target Etc.)
- Correspondence (mail) sent to both you and your spouse
- Correspondence(mail) sent between you and your spouse (Ex. love letters, or any other mail)
- Declarations from friends, family, and/or neighbors who can verify that you live together