



EXAMPLES OF GOOD FAITH DOCUMENTS FOR MARRIAGE-BASED CASES

Applicants must gather documents evidencing that your marriage was entered into in “good faith” and not for the purpose of circumventing US immigration laws. The documents should cover the period of time from the date of your marriage to the present. Documents obtained prior to marriage—during courtship—may also be helpful.

The following are examples of the types of documents that can be used for marriage-based cases. Bolded and/or italicized are some of the strongest pieces of evidence.

A. Evidence of Joint Residence:

- ***Deed or Deed of Trust showing joint ownership of home or other property.***
- ***Mortgage Statements showing that you are jointly obligated for the mortgage on your home.***
- ***Copy of lease showing joint occupancy.***
- ***Joint utility bills.***
- *Correspondence addressed to both spouses. This correspondence should include the envelope with postmark. Even junk mail can be helpful.*
- *Correspondence addressed to each spouse separately. This correspondence should include envelopes with postmarks. The fact that you both have received correspondence at this residence tends to show joint residence.*

B. Financial Records Indicating Joint Ownership of Other Assets or Joint Liabilities:

- ***Joint checking and saving account statements (include several recent statements and 4+ statements from each year of marriage). Note that statements showing low account activity may reflect poorly on your case.***
- ***Joint federal and state tax returns for each year of marriage***
- ***Joint/reciprocal insurance policies (life insurance policy showing spouse as beneficiary, health, auto, rental/homeowner)***
- ***Joint credit cards***
- ***Joint utility bills***
- Joint loans such as an auto loan
- Documents showing joint ownership of personal property such as automobile titles and/or automobile registration cards

C. Other Evidence Establishing a Bona Fide Relationship:

- Birthday, anniversary, etc. cards addressed to both of you from friends and relatives received between date of marriage to the present, including envelopes;
- Joint travel tickets;
- Joint hotel receipts;
- Joint church membership information
- Joint memberships such as AAA, Sam’s Club, YMCA, health clubs, etc.
- **Photographs: wedding ceremony, special occasions, other photographs of the two of you, photographs with family members and friends.**
- Other documentation establishing the bona fides of your marital relationship such as employment records designating the other as beneficiary for employee benefits, or whom to contact in case of an emergency, cards and/or correspondence.