Rozou & Associates LAW FIRM

ATHANASIOS ROZOU

Mutual Consent Divorce IN GREECE

2026

A GUIDE FOR FOREIGNERS WHO WISH TO END THEIR MARRIAGE AMICABLY

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The first edition of this ebook, published in 2023, was met with great success and has been downloaded hundreds of times by readers around the world. That success — together with our firm's experience of handling hundreds of mutual consent divorces involving foreign nationals — encouraged me to prepare this revised 2026 edition, enriched with new content to make the guide more complete than ever.

This digital book explains, step by step, how a mutual consent divorce works in Greece, with a particular focus on foreign nationals.

Athanasios Rozou

Legal Notice

This ebook is provided for general information purposes only. It does not constitute legal advice on any specific matter, and it is not a substitute for advice tailored to your individual circumstances. Reading this ebook, or contacting our firm through it, does not create a lawyer–client relationship.

The information in this ebook reflects Greek law as in force on 6 August 2026. Legislation, court practice and administrative requirements may change after that date. Before taking, or refraining from taking, any action on the basis of this ebook, you should seek specific legal advice on your own case.

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Legal Framework of Mutual Consent Divorce in Greece

Until Greek Law 4509/2017 (Government Gazette A 201/22.12.2017) came into force, a marriage could only be dissolved by mutual agreement through a court judgment. The spouses had to file a joint petition, which the court examined at two separate hearings held six months apart.

In 2018, the power to dissolve a marriage by mutual consent passed from the courts to the notaries. Under Articles 1438 and 1441 of the Greek Civil Code, a consensual divorce is now completed by a notarial deed rather than a judicial decision. The modern procedure is far more efficient: it can be finalised within two to three weeks when both spouses live in Greece, and takes only a little longer when they live abroad.

In 2021, the Government passed Law 4800/2021, which introduced substantial reforms to family law. One of them was the so-called "digital divorce", meant to let spouses dissolve their marriage online without being physically present. Unfortunately, that reform has remained on paper. The state platform never became functional, and the law requiring notarial deeds to be signed in the physical presence of the signatory before a notary was never amended. As a result, an online divorce is still not possible in Greece.

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Couples can, however, end their marriage through the ordinary written procedure — and, as our firm organises it, that procedure requires only a single visit by each spouse to a notary (or to a Greek Consulate, for spouses living abroad). Everything else is handled by our legal team.

Article 1441 of the Greek Civil Code

The central provision governing consensual divorce is Article 1441 of the Greek Civil Code. Its full text — as in force on 6 August 2026 — is set out below in the original Greek, alongside a British English translation.

Άρθρο 1441 — Συναινετικό διαζύγιο (ελληνικό πρωτότυπο)	Article 1441 — Consensual divorce (English translation)
1. Οι σύζυγοι μπορούν, με έγγραφη συμφωνία ή κοινή ψηφιακή δήλωση, να λύσουν τον γάμο τους.	1. The spouses may dissolve their marriage by written agreement or by joint digital declaration.
Η έγγραφη συμφωνία καταρτίζεται μεταξύ των συζύγων ή η κοινή ψηφιακή δήλωση υποβάλλεται από αυτούς με την παρουσία ή με ψηφιακή σύμπραξη πληρεξούσιου δικηγόρου αντίστοιχα για καθέναν από αυτούς.	The written agreement is concluded between the spouses, or the joint digital declaration is submitted by them, in the presence — or, as the case may be, with the digital participation — of an authorised lawyer for each of them.
Όταν η συμφωνία είναι έγγραφη, υπογράφεται από τους ίδιους και από τους πληρεξούσιους δικηγόρους τους ή μόνο από τους τελευταίους, εφόσον είναι εφοδιασμένοι με ειδικό πληρεξούσιο.	Where the agreement is in writing, it is signed by the spouses themselves and by their authorised lawyers, or by the latter alone, provided they hold a special power of attorney.
Η πληρεξουσιότητα πρέπει να έχει δοθεί μέσα στον τελευταίο μήνα πριν από την υπογραφή της συμφωνίας.	The power of attorney must have been granted within the last month before the signing of the agreement.
2. Αν υπάρχουν ανήλικα τέκνα, για να λυθεί ο γάμος, πρέπει με την έγγραφη συμφωνία ή την κοινή ψηφιακή δήλωση της παρ. 1 ή με άλλη συμφωνία μεταξύ των συζύγων, που καταρτίζεται, όπως ορίζεται στην παρ. 1, να ρυθμίζεται η κατανομή της γονικής μέριμνας και ιδίως η επιμέλεια των τέκνων, ο τόπος διαμονής τους, ο γονέας με	2. If there are minor children, in order for the marriage to be dissolved, the written agreement or joint digital declaration of paragraph 1 — or a further agreement between the spouses, concluded as provided in paragraph 1 — must settle the allocation of parental responsibility and, in particular, the physical custody of the children, their place of residence, the

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Άρθρο 1441 — Συναινετικό διαζύγιο (ελληνικό πρωτότυπο)	Article 1441 — Consensual divorce (English translation)
τον οποίο διαμένουν, η επικοινωνία τους με τον άλλο γονέα και η διατροφή τους.	parent with whom they reside, their contact with the other parent, and their maintenance.
Η ανωτέρω έγγραφη συμφωνία ή η κοινή ψηφιακή δήλωση ισχύει για τουλάχιστον δύο (2) έτη και παρατείνεται αυτοδικαίως, εκτός αν κάποιος από τους δύο γονείς δηλώσει εγγράφως στον άλλο γονέα, πριν τη λήξη του συμφωνημένου χρόνου, ότι δεν επιθυμεί την παράτασή της.	The above written agreement or joint digital declaration remains in force for at least two (2) years and is extended automatically by operation of law, unless either parent declares to the other parent in writing, before the agreed period expires, that they do not wish it to be extended.
3. α. Η έγγραφη συμφωνία για τη λύση του γάμου, καθώς και κάθε χωριστή συμφωνία για την κατανομή της γονικής μέριμνας, την επιμέλεια, τον τόπο διαμονής, την επικοινωνία και τη διατροφή των ανηλίκων τέκνων, υποβάλλονται από τους πληρεξουσίους δικηγόρους του κάθε συζύγου μαζί με τα ειδικά πληρεξούσια σε συμβολαιογράφο.	3. a. The written agreement on the dissolution of the marriage, together with any separate agreement on the allocation of parental responsibility, physical custody, place of residence, contact and maintenance of the minor children, is submitted to a notary by the authorised lawyers of each spouse, together with the special powers of attorney.
β. Η κατάρτιση της συμβολαιογραφικής πράξης της παρ. 4 απέχει τουλάχιστον δέκα (10) ημέρες από την έγγραφη συμφωνία των συζύγων ή την κοινή ψηφιακή δήλωση.	b. The notarial deed of paragraph 4 is executed at least ten (10) days after the spouses' written agreement or the joint digital declaration.
Η ημερομηνία της έγγραφης συμφωνίας των συζύγων αποδεικνύεται με βεβαίωση του γνησίου της υπογραφής αυτών.	The date of the spouses' written agreement is proved by certification of the authenticity of their signatures.
Βεβαίωση του γνησίου της υπογραφής των συζύγων δεν απαιτείται στην περίπτωση υποβολής κοινής ψηφιακής δήλωσης.	No certification of the authenticity of the spouses' signatures is required where a joint digital declaration is submitted.
4. Ο συμβολαιογράφος συντάσσει πράξη με την οποία βεβαιώνει τη λύση του γάμου, επικυρώνει τις συμφωνίες των συζύγων και τις ενσωματώνει σε αυτή.	4. The notary draws up a deed by which they certify the dissolution of the marriage, ratify the spouses' agreements and incorporate them into the deed.
Τη συμβολαιογραφική πράξη υπογράφουν ή εγκρίνουν με ηλεκτρονικά μέσα οι σύζυγοι και οι πληρεξούσιοι δικηγόροι	The notarial deed is signed — or approved by electronic means — by the spouses and their authorised lawyers, or by

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Άρθρο 1441 — Συναινετικό διαζύγιο (ελληνικό πρωτότυπο)	Article 1441 — Consensual divorce (English translation)
τους ή μόνο οι τελευταίοι, εφόσον είναι εφοδιασμένοι με ειδικό πληρεξούσιο.	the latter alone, provided they hold a special power of attorney.
Η πληρεξουσιότητα δίδεται τον τελευταίο μήνα πριν από την υπογραφή της πράξης.	The power of attorney is granted within the last month before the signing of the deed.
Όταν η βεβαίωση αφορά στην επιμέλεια, επικοινωνία και διατροφή των ανηλίκων τέκνων, η πράξη αποτελεί εκτελεστό τίτλο, εφόσον έχουν συμπεριληφθεί στη συμφωνία οι ρυθμίσεις των άρθρων 950 και 951 του Κώδικα Πολιτικής Δικονομίας.	Where the certification concerns the physical custody, contact and maintenance of minor children, the deed constitutes an enforceable instrument, provided the agreement includes the arrangements of Articles 950 and 951 of the Code of Civil Procedure.
Μετά τη λήξη ισχύος της επικυρωμένης συμφωνίας, μπορεί να ρυθμίζονται η επιμέλεια, η επικοινωνία και η διατροφή των τέκνων για περαιτέρω χρονικό διάστημα με νέα συμφωνία και με την ίδια διαδικασία.	After the ratified agreement expires, the physical custody, contact and maintenance of the children may be settled for a further period by a new agreement, following the same procedure.
5. Η λύση του γάμου επέρχεται με την κατάθεση αντιγράφου της συμβολαιογραφικής πράξης στο ληξιαρχείο όπου έχει κατατεθεί η σύσταση του γάμου, ή με ενημέρωση του ληξιαρχείου με χρήση Τεχνολογιών Πληροφορικής και Επικοινωνιών.	5. The dissolution of the marriage takes effect upon the filing of a copy of the notarial deed with the Civil Registry Office where the marriage was registered, or upon notification of the Civil Registry Office by means of Information and Communication Technologies.

> *The Greek text above is the authentic text of Article 1441 of the Greek Civil Code as in force on 6 August 2026. The English translation is provided by Rozou and Associates Law Firm for information purposes only; in case of any discrepancy, the Greek text prevails.*

Marriages Legally Eligible for Consensual Dissolution in Greece

Marriages celebrated in Greece can be dissolved by mutual agreement through a notarial deed, whatever the nationality of the spouses. The same applies to marriages celebrated abroad, provided at least one of the spouses is Greek. In the first case the marriage is registered with the local Civil Registry Office; in the second, with the Special Civil Registry Office of Athens.

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Unfortunately, many marriages celebrated abroad were never registered with the Special Civil Registry Office of Athens, simply through the spouses' neglect. If your wedding took place overseas — no matter how long ago — the marriage must be registered with the Special Civil Registry Office of Athens before a mutual consent divorce can proceed in Greece. Before you begin, make sure you hold a Marriage Certificate issued by a Civil Registry Office.

A marriage can be dissolved by mutual consent regardless of how long it has lasted.

Marriages Between Foreigners Abroad

A marriage between two foreign nationals celebrated abroad cannot be dissolved by mutual consent in Greece, because it was never registered with a Greek Civil Registry Office. Under Greek law, the notarial dissolution of a marriage must be registered with the same Civil Registry Office that holds the record of the marriage; until that happens, the marriage remains legally intact. The date of the divorce is the date on which the Civil Registry Office records the notarial deed. Merely signing a divorce deed before a Greek notary is therefore not enough — no Greek Civil Registry Office would accept it for registration.

Our advice is that marriages between foreigners celebrated abroad should be dissolved in the country where they were held and recorded. Whether the registry office of a third country would accept a Greek notarial divorce deed is a separate question, which the spouses should raise directly with the authority of that country. Note also that Greek courts may dissolve marriages between foreigners celebrated abroad, provided specific requirements are met.

Recognition of Divorces Issued Abroad

A marriage celebrated in Greece may also be dissolved in another country, whether through contested or uncontested proceedings.

If the divorce was issued in an EU member state, the divorce document can be registered directly with the Civil Registry Office that holds the record of the marriage. If the wedding was celebrated in a Greek

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Orthodox Church, the marriage must first be dissolved by the competent religious authority (the "Holy Metropolis") before the Civil Registry Office will act.

If the divorce was issued outside the European Union, it must first be recognised by a Greek court (acquire the force of *res judicata*) in order to take effect in Greece, provided it does not offend Greek public policy and morals.

In every case, the foreign divorce must be final in the state where it was issued.

To prove the finality of an EU divorce to the Greek Civil Registry Office, you must present the certificate provided for in Article 36 of Council Regulation (EU) 2019/1111 of 25 June 2019 concerning decisions in matrimonial matters (the "Brussels IIb" Regulation). The certificate is issued by the same foreign authority that issued the divorce.

For a divorce issued outside the EU, an official document (certificate) confirming that the divorce can no longer be challenged must be submitted to the Greek court to establish its finality.

The foreign divorce document and the certificate of finality must bear the Hague Convention Apostille and must be translated into Greek by a Greek lawyer.

Steps of the Mutual Consent Divorce Procedure in Greece

Through extensive experience with mutual consent divorces in which at least one spouse was a foreign national, we have refined the procedure so that only the necessary steps are taken, keeping the financial burden on the spouses to a minimum. Our legal team handles the entire process on the couple's behalf. At the end, wherever the ex-spouses may be, their divorce documents are delivered to them by DHL.

Before we examine the procedure in detail, I kindly invite you to read our firm's testimonials on Google. Our services have earned more than 255 five-star reviews from satisfied clients.

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Step One: Agreeing on Children's Matters

If the couple have children under the age of 18, Article 1441 of the Greek Civil Code requires their agreement to settle the allocation of parental responsibility and, in particular, all of the following: the physical custody of the children; the children's place of residence; the parent with whom the children will live; the children's contact with the other parent, including the contact schedule; and the children's maintenance. Unless every one of these matters is settled, a mutual consent divorce is not possible. Children's matters must be settled regardless of where the children will live after the divorce.

Parental responsibility (in Greek: "gonikí mérimna") is the broader of the two concepts: it embraces all the rights and duties the law entrusts to parents in relation to their children. It includes (a) the care of the child's person, (b) the management of the child's property, (c) the child's representation in legal matters, and (d) the major decisions in the child's life — health care, name, religion and education.

Physical custody (in Greek: "epimélia") is a part of parental responsibility and concerns the child's day-to-day care and upbringing. It covers where the child lives, the child's daily care, the supervision of schooling and extracurricular activities, and the child's health and safety. Put simply: parental

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responsibility covers the important decisions in a child's life, while physical custody covers the "simple, everyday" ones.

Under Greek law, parental responsibility belongs to both parents and can only be removed from either of them by a court judgment. Physical custody, by contrast, may be exercised by one parent alone (sole custody) or by both parents together (shared custody). In a mutual consent divorce, the parents are free to agree on shared custody; where the children are very young, they may agree on shared custody even if the children live in only one parent's household.

The children may live with one parent or with both ("alternating residence" or "shared parenting"). If the child's place of residence is to change substantially — in a way that affects contact between the child and the non-resident parent — the prior written agreement of both parents, or a court decision, is required.

The Greek Civil Code sets no minimum or maximum amount of child maintenance; the parents decide the amount themselves. Typically, parents agree on maintenance for a period of two to three years; once it expires, they must agree on a new arrangement, and if they cannot, the court will set the amount for each child. In any event, parents must support their children until they turn 18 — and adult children who cannot support themselves may, under certain conditions, still claim maintenance from their parents. The monthly amount must be specified separately for each child. In practice, parents usually agree on a fixed sum to be paid each month into the bank account of the resident parent.

Contact between the children and each parent may take place in person or by electronic means. It is common to agree that the parents will share the Easter, Christmas and summer holidays equally with their young children, and to set a weekly contact schedule that does not clash with the children's everyday activities. Bear in mind, though, that any contact schedule really only works while the children are young. Teenagers have fully formed personalities and will decide for themselves how to spend time with each parent, whatever schedule their parents may have drawn up.

All the arrangements described above form part of the Marriage Dissolution Agreement, which is signed by the spouses' lawyers and is discussed further below.

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A Court Example: Vaccination and the Limits of Sole Custody

Sole custody is often misunderstood as giving the resident parent a free hand in every decision concerning the child. Greek law says otherwise. Under Article 1519 § 1 of the Greek Civil Code, certain matters at the very core of a child's life must be decided by both parents jointly, whoever holds physical custody: (a) the naming of the child; (b) the choice of religion; (c) matters concerning the child's health, other than urgent or entirely routine ones; and (d) educational choices that decisively affect the child's future.

Decision no. 5763/2022 of the Single-Member Court of First Instance of Athens (interim measures) illustrates the point. The parents of a young boy had agreed that the mother would exercise sole custody. The mother was opposed to vaccinating the child with the vaccines of the Greek National Immunisation Programme; the father wanted the child vaccinated and, when the mother would not be persuaded, applied to the court. The mother argued, among other things, that as the parent with sole custody she was entitled to decide the matter alone, and that the child was in good health and therefore did not need to be vaccinated.

The court rejected both arguments. Vaccination, it held, is not a routine health matter: it is a decision that affects a child's life and development decisively, and it therefore falls within the core of custody matters that require the joint decision of both parents under Article 1519 § 1 — regardless of which parent exercises custody. Nor does a child's good clinical health remove the necessity of vaccination. Where the parents disagree on such a matter, the court decides in their place under Article 1512 of the Civil Code, with the best interests of the child as the sole criterion. On that basis, the court ordered the mother, in her capacity as the parent exercising sole custody, to take all necessary steps within six months to have the child vaccinated with the vaccines of the National Immunisation Programme, on pain of a monetary penalty of €600 for every breach of the order.

The lesson for divorcing parents is simple: sole custody covers the day-to-day life of the child, but the important decisions — health among them — remain joint. If the parents cannot agree on one of those

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decisions after the divorce, either of them may bring the matter before the court. This is well worth keeping in mind when negotiating the terms of the Marriage Dissolution Agreement.

Step Two: Providing the Necessary Documents and Information

The couple are expected to provide our firm with digital copies of the documents listed below.

Copies of Passports

- A valid passport is compulsory for foreign spouses. Greek spouses need only their identity cards.
- Spouses who are not EU nationals and intend to sign a power of attorney before a Greek notary must also provide documents proving their lawful entry and stay in Greece (for example, a visa or residence permit).
- When signing their powers of attorney, the spouses must show the original documents (passports, identity cards, visas, residence permits) to the notary or the Consulate.

Family Status Certificate (in Greek: "Pistopiitikó Ikoyeniakís Katástasis")

- This certificate confirms which children, if any, were born of the marriage.

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- It cannot be issued if both spouses are foreign nationals. The divorce can still be completed without it; in that case, the spouses must inform their lawyers of their children's names and dates of birth.
- It must have been issued within the three months before the divorce deed is signed.
- The spouses can obtain it through the government platform https://www.gov.gr, at their nearest Citizens' Service Centre ("KEP"), or from the Municipality that keeps their family records. If they are unable to obtain it, our legal team can assist.
- All family members must appear on the certificate; if any are missing, it must be corrected or updated.

Marriage Certificate (in Greek: "Lixiarkhikí Práxi Gámou")

- This document records the details of the marriage.
- It does not need to be recently issued.
- The spouses can obtain it through https://www.gov.gr, at their local KEP, or from the Civil Registry Office where the marriage was registered. Our legal team can obtain it if the couple cannot.
- Couples consisting of a Greek and a foreign national sometimes celebrate a civil wedding abroad and later a religious wedding in a Greek Orthodox Church. The religious ceremony is not legally a second marriage; it is a blessing of the civil marriage by the Church. In that case, the couple should report the details of the religious ceremony to the Civil Registry Office that holds the record of their civil marriage. Recording the religious wedding as a new marriage is an error and produces a "duplicate entry". Where a civil marriage has been blessed in an Orthodox Church, the Marriage Certificate should record both the civil wedding and the religious ceremony.

Spouses' Details

The couple should inform their legal representatives of their addresses and occupations and, where available, their Greek tax identification numbers (AFM), their Greek tax office, and their Greek social security numbers (AMKA).

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Terms Regarding Children's Matters

Because a mutual consent divorce requires agreement on all matters concerning the children, the couple's lawyers must be informed of the agreed terms.

Arrangements Regarding Marital Property

A marriage can end amicably even if the spouses disagree over their shared assets (their "marital property"). Such disputes may be settled after the divorce, either by agreement or by court action under Article 1400 of the Greek Civil Code. The time limit for bringing such an action is two years from the dissolution of the marriage or three years from the spouses' separation during the marriage, whichever comes first. "Separation", in the legal sense, means that the spouses have become physically and emotionally distant and no longer wish to share a life together — even if they still live in the same house.

Step Three: The Marriage Dissolution Agreement

The Marriage Dissolution Agreement, which sets out the terms and conditions of the divorce, is drafted by the spouses' lawyers. It may be signed either by the spouses together with their lawyers, or by the lawyers alone, provided they have been authorised to do so by notarial powers of attorney. If the

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spouses sign the agreement themselves, the authenticity of their signatures must be certified by a public authority. To keep the procedure simple, our firm's lawyers — duly authorised by powers of attorney — sign the agreement on the spouses' behalf.

The text of the agreement is incorporated into the spouses' powers of attorney. The spouses should therefore be entirely certain of the divorce terms before signing their powers of attorney. If they later decide to change the terms, they must revoke the previous powers of attorney and sign new ones incorporating the amended agreement — which means both a delay and the additional cost of the notary or the Consulate for the new documents.

The Marriage Dissolution Agreement contains the spouses' personal details; the details of the marriage (the venue and date of the wedding, the Civil Registry Office where it was registered, and the number of the Marriage Certificate); the children's details; the agreed terms on children's matters; and any arrangements concerning marital property.

The parties may also make provision for spousal maintenance.

Step Four: Signing the Powers of Attorney

With powers of attorney, our firm's lawyers sign the notarial divorce deed on the spouses' behalf and then complete the registration of the divorce with the competent religious authority and Civil Registry Office.

Since 2018, the law has prohibited a single lawyer from representing both spouses in a mutual consent divorce.

To be valid, a power of attorney must be signed before a certified Greek notary, the local Greek Consulate, or a foreign notary. A simple authorisation to the lawyer bearing a digital signature is not sufficient in the eyes of the law. Each spouse's lawyer must hold a proper power of attorney in order to conduct the procedure.

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Powers of attorney signed before a Greek notary or a Greek Consulate must be in Greek. A power of attorney may only be signed if the signatory fully understands what it means, so an interpreter may need to be engaged; Consulates usually work with particular interpreters whom they consider reliable. No Apostille is required on a power of attorney signed before these authorities.

If the powers of attorney are signed before a foreign notary, they must be drawn up in a language recognised by the law of the country where the notary practises. In that case, each power of attorney must bear an Apostille and be translated into Greek by a Greek lawyer, which increases the cost of the procedure. We generally use a foreign notary only when neither a Greek notary nor a Greek Consulate is accessible.

Our firm clarifies any issues concerning the powers of attorney with the authorities involved and handles the related communication and paperwork on the spouses' behalf.

The spouses should send us at least one certified copy of each power of attorney — preferably by DHL if they live abroad. The notary who signs the divorce deed keeps official duplicates of the powers of attorney in their records, and the spouses' lawyers need a further certified copy to register the divorce with the Civil Registry Office. Each spouse should therefore provide our legal team with two certified copies of their power of attorney.

Step Five: Signing the Divorce Deed

Ten days after the spouses sign their powers of attorney, their lawyers can sign the divorce deed in the presence of a Greek notary.

Step Six: Dissolution of the Marriage with the Religious Authority

Under the fourth paragraph of Article 22 of Law 4509/2017, the dissolution of a religious marriage by the local ecclesiastical authority (the "Holy Metropolis") is mandatory. This requirement applies exclusively to Christian Orthodox weddings; it does not extend to marriages celebrated under any other religion or denomination.

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Before the divorce can be registered with the Civil Registry Office, the couple must obtain their "spiritual divorce" documents from the local Holy Metropolis, paying the Church's fee of approximately €50. Our legal team handles this step for the couple through the powers of attorney.

Step Seven: Finalising the Divorce Proceedings

Once the marriage has been spiritually dissolved (where required), our lawyers submit a certified copy of the divorce deed to the Civil Registry Office. That is the moment the divorce becomes official: the marriage is dissolved on the date of registration. The Civil Registry Office then updates the Marriage Certificate to include the details of the divorce.

Notifying the Tax Authority

If the spouses hold a Greek tax identification number, the Greek tax administration must be notified of the divorce. Their accountant can do this, or we can do it on their behalf; in the latter case we need their login credentials in order to upload the required documents through their online tax profiles.

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Sending the Divorce Documents to the ex-Spouses

Once the procedure is complete, we send the divorce documents to the ex-spouses both digitally, by email, and physically, by DHL — the envelopes arrive within just a few days, wherever in the world they may be. The documents include:

- A copy of the notarial divorce deed, for the spouses' records.
- The documentation from the religious authority confirming the spiritual dissolution of the marriage (where applicable).
- An updated Marriage Certificate showing the details of the divorce.
- The certificate provided for in Article 36 of Council Regulation (EU) 2019/1111 concerning decisions in matrimonial matters, issued by the notary who executed the divorce deed. This certificate serves as proof that the divorce is final and can be registered with foreign authorities.

Payment of Fees and Procedural Costs

All costs and fees relating to the procedure are paid into our firm's bank accounts, with the exception of the charges of the Greek Consulate or the foreign notary for the powers of attorney. The spouses also cover the courier costs of sending us their powers of attorney.

Life After Divorce

If the couple had no children and their divorce deed contained no special terms, such as spousal maintenance, neither ex-spouse owes the other any further obligation. Where there are children, however, the parents must comply with the divorce terms concerning them; failure to do so carries legal consequences.

Under Article 169A of the Greek Criminal Code, a parent who fails to comply with the divorce terms governing the children's contact with the non-resident parent may be imprisoned for up to three years or fined. If the resident parent breaches the contact schedule set out in the divorce documents, the other

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parent may report the matter to the police and press charges, which can lead to the resident parent's arrest.

Under Article 1532 of the Greek Civil Code, a court may remove physical custody from a resident parent who persistently breaches the non-resident parent's contact schedule.

Under Article 358 of the Greek Criminal Code, a parent who fails to meet their maintenance obligation towards their children — leaving the children in hardship or dependent on the help of others — may be sentenced to up to one year in prison or fined.

Finally, the resident parent may take legal action against a parent who has failed to pay child maintenance, enforce against their assets, and have those assets sold at public auction.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. We both live abroad. Do we need to travel to Greece?

No. The entire procedure can be completed without you setting foot in Greece. You sign powers of attorney at the Greek Consulate of your choice and send them to us by courier; we carry out every step in Greece on your behalf and, at the end, send the divorce documents to any address you indicate, in Greece or abroad.

2. We live in different Greek cities. Is that a problem?

Not at all. Each spouse signs a power of attorney before a notary in their own city — we will recommend one — and we handle everything else. At the end of the procedure, each of you receives the divorce documents at the address you give us.

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3. My residence permit in Greece is no longer valid. Can we still divorce?

Spouses living in Greece without a valid residence permit cannot lawfully sign powers of attorney — or the divorce deed itself — before a Greek notary. There are two ways forward: obtain a valid residence permit, or sign the powers of attorney at a Greek Consulate abroad. In other words, the lack of a valid permit is an obstacle only for signing before a notary inside Greece; it is no obstacle at all for spouses who live abroad and sign at a Consulate.

4. My spouse does not speak Greek. Can they still sign?

Yes, with the assistance of an interpreter. The interpretation does not have to be into their mother tongue; any language they declare they understand is acceptable. For example, a spouse whose mother tongue is Ukrainian but who understands English may sign with an interpreter translating from Greek into English. The interpreter's fee is modest and is added to the overall cost. The same applies when a power of attorney is signed at a Greek Consulate abroad.

5. How long does the whole procedure take?

Two to three weeks is a safe estimate when both spouses live in Greece, and a little longer when they live abroad. In theory the marriage can be dissolved in as little as ten days — the minimum interval the law requires between the signing of the dissolution agreement and the signing of the notarial deed — but such cases are rare in practice.

6. Is there a divorce without lawyers, or a free divorce?

No. Greek law does not provide for any form of divorce without lawyers, and no form of divorce is free of charge.

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7. We have unresolved property disputes. Do they block the divorce?

No. A marriage can be dissolved by mutual consent even while property claims between the spouses remain open. Those disputes can be settled after the divorce, either amicably or in court — or they can be settled within the dissolution agreement itself, including with penalty clauses in case of breach. The spouses should, however, keep an eye on the statutory deadlines for bringing property claims, described earlier in this book.

8. Can child maintenance be set at zero?

Yes. The law requires the parents to agree on maintenance for the children but sets no minimum amount. If the agreement provides that the non-resident parent will pay no maintenance, it is understood that the resident parent will cover the children's living costs in full.

9. How is the amount of child maintenance decided?

Freely, by the parents themselves. If they cannot agree on the amount, a mutual consent divorce is not possible. To help parents reach an agreement, our firm has built an anonymous online calculator based on an extensive study of Greek court decisions; it gives a non-binding indication of the maintenance a Greek court would be likely to set in a given case.

10. Sole custody or shared custody — what actually changes?

Less than most people expect. Parental responsibility remains with both parents by law in either case, and the dissolution agreement will in any event determine where the children live, the contact schedule and the maintenance — and it is those arrangements that shape everyday life. Whether physical custody is exercised by one parent or by both is, in practice, more a matter of form than of substance.

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11. Is there a deadline for the spiritual dissolution or the registration? When exactly is the marriage dissolved?

There is no deadline, and no fine for delay. Bear in mind, however, that the marriage is dissolved on the day the notarial deed is registered with the Civil Registry Office — not on the day it is signed. For a Christian Orthodox marriage, the registry will not accept the deed for registration until the spiritual dissolution has taken place, so any delay in that step delays the divorce itself.

12. How do I register my divorce in my own country?

Together with your divorce documents, we send you the documents normally required for registration abroad — we do this all the time. We nevertheless recommend asking the competent authority in your country exactly what it requires. Even within the European Union, registry offices of the same member state have been known to ask for different things: the divorce deed with or without an Apostille, translated into the local language or not, and so on.

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Epilogue

Thank you for taking the time to read this ebook. I hope it has answered your questions about the mutual consent divorce procedure in Greece. Family law is one of our firm's core areas of practice, and my team and I would be glad to assist you.

To see the exact cost of your own mutual consent divorce — together with the documents required and the procedure that applies to your specific case — use the calculator we have built on our website:

nomikosodigos.info/en/tools/mutual-consent-divorce

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