

Registering a relationship in South Australia

Who can apply?

You may apply if you are over 18 years of age and in a relationship with another person as a couple, provided at least one person lives in South Australia. Couples may apply irrespective of their sex or gender identity.

Are there any restrictions?

Your relationship cannot be registered if you or your partner are married (as defined in the *Marriage Act 1961*), already in a registered relationship or corresponding law registered relationship (as defined in the *Relationships Register Act 2016*), in a relationship as a couple with another person, or related by family (as defined in the *Relationships Register Act 2016*).

How do we apply?

You will need to complete a 'Register a relationship – application' form. This can be completed online but must then be printed. Alternatively, contact Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDM) and request a form to be posted out – phone 131 882.

Applications must be accompanied by completed statutory declarations witnessed by an authorised person, evidence of the identity and age of each person in the relationship and the fee prescribed by the *Relationships Register Regulations 2017*. The application can then be submitted in person or by post:

In person:
Births Deaths and Marriages
Level 2, 91-97 Grenfell Street
Adelaide SA
Monday to Friday 9:00am - 4:30pm

By post:
Births Deaths and Marriages
GPO Box 1351
Adelaide SA 5001

Can one person apply to register a relationship?

No, both persons in the relationship must apply.

What identification and documents do we need?

For information about what identification is required to prove your identity and residency, please refer to the application form.

Overseas documents need to be translated into English by an accredited translator.

If you've previously been married, have been in a South Australian registered relationship or in a corresponding law registered relationship you will also need to provide evidence that you are no longer in this relationship (e.g. divorce certificate, decree absolute, nullity order, endorsed relationship certificate or death certificate)

What if I don't have all of the required documents?

Contact Births, Deaths and Marriages to ask for assistance – phone 131 882.

What documentary evidence do we need to prove our relationship?

None, however it is an offence to make a false representation or declaration knowing its contents to be misleading or untrue. Penalties of \$1,250 or up to 4 years imprisonment may be imposed.

What happens if I have previously been in a registered relationship, but my previous partner has married or died?

The relationship registration is automatically revoked by law if a partner marries or dies. Notify BDM that this has occurred, so that it can be noted in the Register.

Can the registration process be fast-tracked?

No, the earliest your relationship can be registered is 28 days after lodging your complete application and payment of the fees.

Will registering our relationship support my visa application?

Contact the Department of Immigration and Border Protection to ask for assistance – phone 131 881.

Can we withdraw our application?

One or both persons may apply to withdraw the application within 28 days of lodging the form by completing a 'Withdraw an application to register a relationship' form. There is no fee to withdraw, however the relationship registration fee is non-refundable.

Can we have a ceremony to register our relationship?

While it's not a requirement that you have a ceremony to register your relationship you may choose to, either at the Registry or at another location.

What certificates can we apply for once our relationship is registered?

You can either order a standard certificate or commemorative certificate package.

Can I assume my partner's name after our relationship has been registered?

Yes, however if you decide to take your partner's surname you should check with the agency where you want to update your details (ie Australian Passport Office) to find out their requirements. More information about changing your name and the associated costs can be found on sa.gov.au – [Register a change of name](#)

What if we have had a certificate issued under interstate or overseas law?

Please refer to the *Relationships Register Regulations 2017* to see if your relationship may be declared to be a corresponding law registered relationship. If it is, you may apply to our Office for a certificate to that effect, however, as your relationship is already recognised by another corresponding jurisdiction, your relationship cannot be re-registered in South Australia.

What if our relationship breaks down?

You may apply to revoke your relationship by completing a 'Revoke a registered relationship - application' form. One or both persons may apply. If only one person makes the application they must serve a notice on the other person. Refer to the application form to find out more.

How long does it take to revoke a relationship?

It takes 90 days after the complete application is received with payment of the fees.

Can I cancel an application to revoke once it's been submitted?

You may apply to withdraw your application during the 90 day cooling off period by completing a 'Withdraw an application to revoke a registered relationship' form. There is no fee to apply to withdraw, however application fees are non-refundable.

Find out more at sa.gov.au/bdm or by contacting 131 882