

## EVIDENCE: LAW\_0004\_EN

<b>Title</b>	<b>matrimonium cum manu</b> (Marriage with hand)
<b>Subtitle</b>	Roman law
<b>Author</b>	Unknown
<b>Date / Historical era</b>	Antiquity
<b>Theme(s)</b>	Gender Roles & Patriarchy
<b>Type</b>	Legal concept
<b>Language</b>	<b>EN</b>
<b>Translation</b>	Automatic translation generated using an AI-based tool and edited by the project team. This translation is provided for educational and non-commercial purposes.

## Excerpt

In ancient Rome, **matrimonium cum manu** was a form of marriage where the wife legally left her father's control (**patria potestas**) and entered the **manus** (hand or authority) of her husband or her father-in-law. She essentially became a legal member of her new family, acquiring the status of a daughter to her husband and inheriting from his estate, not her original family's.

There was thus a transfer of control: The husband (or his paterfamilias) gained significant authority over the wife, though this power was more limited than the **patria potestas** over his natural children (lacking, for example, the right of life and death).



Co-funded by  
the European Union

Project number :  
2024-2-FR01-KA210-SCH-000295678

The European Commission's support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents, which reflect the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



Moreover, the wife generally had no proprietary capacity; her property transferred to her husband's family.



Co-funded by  
the European Union

Project number :  
2024-2-FR01-KA210-SCH-000295678

The European Commission's support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents, which reflect the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.