A marriage of convenience is a marriage between two people for practical or financial reasons and not for family, love or intimacy. It is often for personal gain or another strategic purpose. Common reasons are immigration status, political gain or reputation. Essentially it’s a union or cooperation formed solely for pragmatic reasons.

Legal loopholes are exploited by those who contract a marriage of convenience. It is illegal in many countries, including the United States, to have a marriage of convenience such as for immigration purposes. People committing this fraud are subject to legal penalties.