



British Embassy
Tokyo

Marriage in Japan

If you are a British National planning to marry an opposite sex partner in Japan, you must take the following steps and register the marriage at a Japanese municipal office.

1. Contact the relevant municipal office in Japan to find out about local marriage laws, including what documents you will need.
2. Complete an **Affirmation** or **Affidavit of Marital Status** at the British Embassy Tokyo (To find out more information about this, please see below).
3. Fill in a Kon-in Todoke (request of registration of marriage) at your local municipal office.
4. Submit all the necessary documents (including the documents above) to the municipal office.

What is an Affirmation/Affidavit of Marital Status?

An Affirmation/Affidavit of Marital Status is a document stating that you are free to marry, which you must affirm or swear in front of a consular officer at the Consular section of the British Embassy Tokyo. The Japanese authorities require you to present this at the municipal office along with your birth certificate.

We no longer issue Certificates of No Impediment (CNI) for British nationals marrying in Japan.

What do I need to do?

1. Prepare.
 - You must prepare an Affirmation or Affidavit of Marital Status form before you attend the Consular Section. An affidavit is a religious oath, and an affirmation is a non-religious declaration. You can either type your information using the Word Document version or handwrite by printing the PDF version. Please note that you should print the form as a double-sided document, otherwise you will need to pay for a notarial service to 'unite' the two pages. If you present two separate sheets that have not been 'united' by a consular officer the Japanese authorities may refuse to accept the document. You can download or print the form [here](#).
 - Ensure you have the right supporting documents (see below).
 - Check with the municipal office how far in advance you should obtain the Affidavit/Affirmation. Most municipal offices will only accept documents that were issued within a **certain number of months** before its submission.

2. Make an appointment.
You must [make an appointment](#) with the Consular Section before your visit.
3. Visit the Embassy.
You must attend in person to sign the document before a consular officer. Only the British national is required to attend and you do not need to provide a witness.

What do I need to bring?

You should bring all your **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS** relating to the facts indicated on your affirmation/affidavit. If any of the documents are not in English or Japanese, please provide an official translation. Please refer to the list below:

- Original UK passport;
- Official ID or document showing your current address (e.g. Residence Card or driving licence. We can also accept utility bill or bank statement issued within 3 months);
- If you are a naturalized or registered British Citizen, your Naturalisation or Registration Certificate;
- Original deed poll if you have changed your name;
- If you are a widow/widower, the original death certificate of deceased spouse, or a certified copy;
- If you have previously been married, your original decree absolute/annulment papers, or a certified copy.

- **You should also have your original birth certificate which shows your parents' full names and mother's maiden name (you can order a certified copy of your British birth certificate [here](#)). The Embassy can prepare your marriage document without this but it will be required by the local municipal office before you are able to register your marriage in Japan.**

- **Please pay fee 4 in Japanese yen, see [Japan - Consular Fees](#) for current yen exchange rate. You can pay in Yen by cash or card (Visa or Mastercard).**

- **If any of your documents are not written in English or Japanese, you will need to bring a official translation in English along with the original document. We provide a [list](#) of translation companies on our website, which you might find useful.**

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Under the Perjury Act (1911) it is a criminal offence to knowingly make a false declaration. Offenders face the possibility of a fine and/or a jail sentence.
- An affidavit/affirmation does not make your proposed marriage valid under UK or foreign law, or guarantee to the local authorities that you are free to marry. You may wish to seek legal advice about the validity of your Japanese marriage in the United Kingdom. Consular staff are not legally trained; thus, they are unable to comment on this matter. Please see the FAQs below.

Please note that procedures for same-sex consular marriages at the British Embassy in Tokyo are different as these are not conducted under Japanese law. Please refer to [our website](#) for further details.

FAQs

Q. I recently registered my marriage in Japan. I was asked by my ward office to get a marriage certificate from the Embassy. Do you offer such service?

A. No, we do not issue any documents relating to marriages once the marriage has been registered with the Japanese authorities. Your Japanese marriage document "Certificate of Acceptance of Notification of Marriage" (Kon-in Todoke Juri Shomeisho) and a translation of that document provided by a translation company should be sufficient for most purposes.

Q. Do I need to register our marriage with the UK authorities at the embassy?

A. No, you are not required to have your marriage recorded in the UK. Your Japanese marriage certificate and a translation of that document provided by a translation company should suffice for most purposes. More information can be found [here](#).

Q. Is my Japanese marriage valid in the UK?

A. Embassy/Consular officers are not legally qualified and only a court of law can determine the validity of any marriage. Under UK legislation marriages involving at least one British citizen taking place abroad, before the competent local authority and which are legally valid in that country, are likely to be recognised as valid in the UK. Marriages performed abroad, involving at least one British citizen are not registered with UK authorities.

Q. How long does the process take? Would it be possible to receive a completed affirmation/affidavit on the day?

A. The process usually takes 30 minutes as long as the documents you provide are correct, in which case you will be able to get a completed affirmation/affidavit on the day.

Q. My birth certificate is in a foreign language. Do you accept it as a supporting document?

A. Yes we do, but you will need to bring an official translation of the certificate along with the original one.

Q. I don't live in Japan. What do I need to bring as proof of my address in the UK?

A. Your driver's license, a utility bill or a bank statement should suffice.

Q. I was born in Hong Kong and am a British National Overseas passport holder. Can you still administer my affirmation/ affidavit?

A. Yes, we can.

Q. After I received the completed form, I realised that I have made a mistake on the form. Is it possible to come to the Embassy again to amend it?

A. No, we cannot amend it once the form has been completed. You will need to apply for a new one. It might be worthwhile to speak to the ward office first which you intend to submit your affirmation/ affidavit to see if they can still accept it.

Useful Links

[Local Services List](#)

List of English-speaking service providers, including lawyers translators in Japan.

[FAQs by The Ministry of Justice](#)

General information regarding marriage and births in Japan (available in Japanese only)