



British Embassy
Manila

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INFORMATION NOTE:

RECOGNITION or VALIDITY of MARRIAGE

To whom it may concern

Marriage in the UK is governed by separate and different legislation in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. None of the Register Offices in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland issue certificates of marital status. Marriage to British nationals abroad is governed by “the Consular Marriages and Marriages under Foreign Law (No.2) Order 2014”.

Only a UK court of law can determine whether a particular marriage is valid under UK law. It is not possible to register in the UK a marriage celebrated in a foreign country. Generally speaking, however, if a ceremony is considered valid in the country where the ceremony was performed; both parties to the marriage had the capacity to marry under the law of the country of domicile; and both parties of the marriage consented to marry the other, then the marriage is likely to be recognised in the UK. UK marriage certificates are not amended or updated after the couple are divorced.

The information contained in this Note is general and should not be taken as a definitive statement of law.

Consular Section
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