



British  
High Commission  
New Delhi

Consular Section  
British High Commission  
Shantipath, Chanakyapuri  
New Delhi 110021

[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

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## INFORMATION NOTE

### MARRIAGE

**The British High Commission does not issue No Objection Certificates for marriage registrations to British Nationals. It has not done since August 2013.**

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. The Consular Marriages and Marriages under Foreign Law (No2) Order 2014 governs the marriage of British nationals abroad under local law.

Only the courts in England and Wales can recognise a marriage under English and Welsh law, which has taken place in a foreign jurisdiction. Whether the court will recognise such a marriage depends on two independent factors being satisfied separately: the parties must have capacity to marry and they must comply with the form of marriage. Capacity to marry is governed by the law of each party's domicile.

The usual rule in terms of the form of marriage is that if a marriage is valid under local law, the marriage will be recognised in English and Welsh law. If the use of the local form of marriage is impossible, the marriage will be recognised if the marriage is celebrated in accordance with the requirements of the English and Welsh common law.

A matter that goes to both capacity and form is consent. No marriage is valid if, by the law of either party's domicile, one party does not consent to marry the other.

The rules of English and Welsh law regarding domicile are extremely complex and consular staff are not qualified to assess or verify the domicile of an individual: nor are Consular staff able to verify the country of domicile, place of residence, identity of an individual, marital status or criminal antecedents of a British national wishing to marry in India.

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