



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 and make a booking with us (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 British Embassy Tokyo. The Japanese authorities require you to present the document 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. **Apply online:** You must apply online for an Affirmation or Affidavit of Marital Status [here](#).
 - **Documentation:** Ensure you have the right supporting documents (see below).
 - **Local Municipal Office:** Check with the municipal office you intend to register your marriage 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.
 - Consular Staff will not contact you unless we need to ask you a question about your application or to ask for an extra document. Also we will print out the form for you at the Embassy upon your appointment.

2. **Make an appointment:** At the end of your online application process, you will be directed to a link to our booking page where you can check appointment availability and choose a slot suitable for you. You must make an appointment with the Consular Section before your visit. If two British Nationals wishing to marry one another are seeking an affirmation/affidavit, you will need one appointment each and will be seen in turn.
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, driving licence, utility bill, bank statement);
 - Original full 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](#)).
 - 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 can pay online beforehand when you complete your online application form. In case you wish to pay in person during your appointment please see below:**
 - **Cash - please pay fee 4 in Japanese Yen (JPY). See [Japan - Consular Fees](#) for current yen exchange rate. We cannot take cash in GBP.**
 - **Credit card - You can pay in JPY or GBP (Visa or Mastercard).**
 - **If any of your documents are not written in English or Japanese, you will need to bring an 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 recognized as valid in the UK. However, please note that marriages performed abroad, involving at least one British citizen are not automatically registered with UK authorities. If you need to submit your Japanese marriage certificate to non-Japanese authorities in other countries, an apostille might be required. An apostille is a certification from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to prove that the document is official and issued by its government. To get an apostille from Japanese Ministry of foreign affairs, please visit [their webpage](#).
- 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 if it is not in English nor Japanese.
- 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 realized 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.

Q. My Residence Card has expired, and I'm in the process of renewing it. Can I still submit the expired card as proof of address?

A. If you are in the process of renewing your visa please make sure, in addition to your residence card, that you submit a photo of the stamp on your card and/or letter from immigration to show that you've started the renewal process. If you receive a new card before your appointment, please send us a copy of your new card.

Q. I want to (1) register for a same-sex partnership at my local municipality / (2) apply for a child benefit / (3) receive IVF treatment without getting married. They asked me to get a document confirming my single status. Can I get an affirmation for these purpose?

A. We cannot provide affirmations/affidavits for these purposes other than marriage under the Japanese law. What we can provide is a letter to say that we cannot provide a document confirming your single status. Please check with your local ward/city office to see if they will accept this instead.

Useful Links

[Local Services List](#)

List of English-speaking service providers, including lawyers translators in Japan can be found in the dropdown "Living in Japan" section.

[FAQs by The Ministry of Justice](#)

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