



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

Consular & Crisis Directorate
Foreign, Commonwealth &
Development Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH
T +44 (0)20 7008 5000

www.gov.uk/fcdo

To whom it may concern,

Information Note: Certificates of no impediment for marriage in the Commonwealth

The Consular Marriages and Marriages under Foreign Law (No. 2) Order 2014 governs the issuing of Certificates of No Impediment (CNIs) for British nationals marrying abroad under local law. Under this Order, it is not possible for a CNI to be issued for a proposed marriage that will take place in a Commonwealth country.

The Civil Partnership (Registration Abroad and Certificates) Order 2005 governs the issuing of Certificates of No Impediment (CNIs) for British nationals entering into civil partnership equivalents abroad under local law. Under this Order, it is not possible for a CNI to be issued for a proposed overseas civil partnership to take place between a British national and a commonwealth national.

These Orders apply to both British High Commissions, and local register offices in the UK. Marriage & Civil Partnership in the UK is governed by different legislation in England and Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.

None of the register offices in England and Wales, nor in Scotland or Northern Ireland, issue certificates that confirm an individual's marital status, as the UK does not have a central civil register that confirms the marital statuses of British citizens. A CNI certifies that no legal impediment to a marriage has been shown to exist. It does not confirm that no impediment actually exists or that a proposed marriage will be recognised under foreign or UK law.

This information contained in this Note is general and should not be taken as a definitive statement of law nor legal advice. Any legal advice required should be obtained independently.



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