



Reference No. 23CRS02-12-123144

## MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 2023-23

TO : ALL CITY/MUNICIPAL CIVIL REGISTRARS,  
OFFICERS-IN-CHARGE, PHILIPPINE FOREIGN  
SERVICE POSTS OFFICIALS AND STAFF,  
PSA OFFICIALS AND CONCERNED PERSONNEL

SUBJECT : Process for British Nationals Who Wish to Obtain  
Marriage License in the Philippines

DATE : 13 December 2023

Under Memorandum Circular No. 2023-16 dated 31 July 2023, the Local Civil Registrars (LCRs) were directed to accept locally notarized Affidavits in lieu of the Certificates of Legal Capacity to Contract Marriage until 31 October 2023. After the lapse of the said period, foreign citizens who wish to obtain marriage license in the Philippines shall be required to comply with Article 21 of the Family Code of the Philippines.

Recently, the British Embassy in Manila sent a *Note Verbale* to the Philippine Statistics Authority informing the latter that the United Kingdom does not have a central register of marriages. Thus, it is not possible for the British Embassy to confirm whether a British national who wishes to marry in the Philippines is single and free to marry in compliance with Article 21 of the Family Code of the Philippines.

In view of this, for British nationals who are residents in the United Kingdom and wish to marry in the Philippines, an apostilled Certificate of No Impediment (CNI) issued by their respective LCR in the United Kingdom must be submitted to the concerned LCR in the Philippines before a marriage license can be obtained. For British nationals who are already residents of the Philippines or residents elsewhere outside the United Kingdom and wish to marry in the Philippines, an Affidavit of Freedom to Marry subscribed before the British Embassy in Manila must



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be submitted to the concerned LCR in the Philippines before a marriage license can be obtained.

For your information and guidance.

**CLAIRE DENNIS S. MAPA, PhD**

Undersecretary

National Statistician and Civil Registrar General

*CSM/MBG/ECQ/RDF*