



British  
High Commission  
Freetown

Consular Section  
British High Commission  
6 Spur Road  
Freetown

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.

This Order applies 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.

As set out in Section 4 of the wedding criteria issued by the Office of the Administrator and Registrar General in Sierra Leone, "nationalities from Commonwealth countries shall produce an affidavit to show they are not married in their countries of origin." In line with this requirement, Commonwealth nationals are expected to provide an affidavit of marital status rather than a Certificate of No Impediment. A CNI is therefore not required from Commonwealth citizens for the purposes of marriage in Sierra Leone.

*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.*

Consular Section  
British High Commission Freetown, Sierra Leone



WEDDING CRITERIA – JANUARY 2026-DECEMBER 2026

1. COUPLES SHOULD PRODUCE COLOURED COPIES OF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING: VALID NATIONAL IDENTITY CARD, NASSIT, DRIVING LICENSE OR PASSPORT COPY AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS. ALSO SUBMIT ONE PASSPORT SIZE PICTURE FOR EACH OF THE APPLICANTS BEFORE YOUR BOOKING.
2. DIVORCEE, WIDOW OR WIDOWER SHALL PRODUCE PROOF OF EVIDENCE
3. NATIONALITIES FROM NON-COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES SHALL PRODUCE NON-IMPEDIMENTS (A DOCUMENT SHOWING THAT THEY ARE NOT MARRIED IN THEIR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN)
4. NATIONALITIES FROM COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES SHALL PRODUCE AFFIDAVIT TO SHOW THEY ARE NOT MARRIED IN THEIR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

FEES

5. BOOKING AND MARRIAGE FEES – LE1,500.00NL

6. PUBLICATION OF BANNS FEES 100.00NL

7. OATH TAKING AND FEE – LE100.00NL. TO BE DONE AT THE OFFICE 2 DAYS BEFORE THE WEDDING DATE

8. TEN WITNESSES ARE ALLOWED TO SIGN THE REGISTER

WEDDINGS ARE CONDUCTED FROM TUESDAY TO FRIDAY

NOTE: BOOKING SHOULD BE DONE TWO (2) MONTHS PRIOR TO YOUR WEDDING AND MONEY PAID IS NON-REFUNDABLE

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