

Solemnization/Registration of Marriage under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969.

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Marriages between two individuals can be solemnized/registered at the High Commission of India (HCI), London under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. At least one of the parties to the intended marriage should be a citizen of India and should have resided in the UK for a period of not less than thirty days immediately preceding the date on which the notice of intended marriage is given to the Marriage Officer at HCI, London.

The procedure for solemnization/registration of marriage and clarifications/guidance concerning solemnization/registration of marriage are given below:

What are the procedures for getting married at the HCI, London?

The prospective bride and groom need to appear in person before the Marriage Officer along with three (3) witnesses with their valid passports. They need to submit the prescribed "Notice of Intended Marriage" form duly filled-in and signed by both the parties along with a fee of £42.00 in cash or through crossed postal order drawn in favour of "High Commission of India, London" and £11.00 each for Sworn Affidavit. They are also required to fill-in and sign the prescribed Declaration and Sworn Affidavit. The Declaration needs to be signed by three (3) witnesses in the presence of the Marriage Officer. They need to publish the "Notice of Intended Marriage" in a widely circulated newspaper in their home country, at the place of permanent residence as indicated in the passports of bride and groom, and in the country or countries in which the parties are ordinarily resident. A date for solemnization of the marriage is given 30 days after the publication of the Notice and provided no objections are received from any quarter. A day prior to the date of solemnization of marriage, original passports of the couple and witnesses are required to be submitted to the Marriage Officer. On the scheduled date, the prospective couple and the three (3) witnesses need to come to the High Commission for solemnization of the marriage.

What documents are to be submitted at the HCI prior to the marriage?

Notice of Intended Marriage, prescribed Declaration and Sworn Affidavit. Four (4) Passport size photos each of the prospective bride and groom. Photocopy of the valid passport and UK residence visa of the bride or groom, whoever is an Indian national *and address proof*. Photocopy of the passports of the three (3) witnesses.

The prospective bride and groom and the three (3) witnesses should also carry their original passports for verification at the time of the submission of the Notice.

When do the prospective bride and groom and the witnesses sign papers?

This needs to be done at the time of submission of Notice in front of the Marriage Officer.

What formalities are to be completed before the marriage can be solemnized?

Notice in the prescribed format is to be published in a widely circulated newspaper in the home country, at the place of permanent residence as indicated in the passports of bride and groom, and in the country or countries in which the parties are ordinarily resident. In case, both bride and groom are from same state in India, notice is to be published only in one newspaper of that particular state. After the publication of Notice, the applicants are required to submit the concerned newspapers in original.

What formalities are to be completed before the marriage can be solemnized if one among the prospective couple is:

Not an Indian?

A No Objection/Bachelorhood Certificate is to be obtained from their respective Embassy/Consulate in UK. In case, where the Embassy/Consulate does not issue such a certificate, a Sworn Affidavit attested by the respective Embassy/ Consulate of the non-Indian applicant needs to be submitted. A certificate from the Embassy/Consulate of the non-Indian applicant stating that his/her country's respective law does not prohibit their nationals from marrying foreign nationals.

A Divorcee?

A decree of divorce issued by the competent authority in India and attested by CPV Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in case the divorce has taken place in India. In case divorce has taken place in a country other than India, the divorce certificate needs to be attested by the competent authorities of the concerned country and should be counter attested by the concerned Indian Mission/Post accredited to that country.

A UK national?

Since the UK authorities do not issue certificates of no impediment for marriages within the Common wealth countries, no such certificate is required from UK nationals.

How is the prospective couple informed about the date of solemnization of marriage and when?

There is a mandatory wait period of 30-days after publication of the Notice in the newspapers. The prospective couple can contact the HCI on any day after publication of advertisement to fix up a date for

solemnization of marriage.

When do the prospective bride and groom and the three witnesses submit their original passports?

They are required to do this one day before the actual solemnization of marriage. The passports are returned immediately after the solemnization along with marriage certificate.

Whether parents of the prospective bride and bridegroom will be informed about the submission of Notice of Intended Marriage?

No.

Whether people from different religions can marry?

Yes. People from different religions can marry under Indian law.

What is the law under which marriage is solemnized?

The marriage is solemnized under Foreign Marriage Act, 1969.

REQUIREMENTS FOR INTENDED MARRIAGE

Miscellaneous Application form with Passport size photograph filled by each applicant. Notice for intended marriage (4 copies each) form, duly filled-in. Declaration by prospective bride and bridegroom (in duplicate 2 copies each). Sworn Affidavit by the prospective bride and bridegroom (in duplicate by each), duly attested by the High Commission of India, London. Four identical passport size recent photographs (of bride and groom). At least one of the parties must be on a residence visa of the UK. Three witnesses with their original valid passports, resident proof/visa copy/BRP card and address proof along with photocopy of each document. If one of the parties is not an Indian citizen, a No Objection Certificates/Affidavit (in respect of his/her marital status and willingness to marry an Indian) from the concerned Consulate/ Embassy in UK. All five persons are required to appear before the Marriage Officer for signatures with their original passports and a photocopy both at the time of submission of forms and at the time of solemnization of the Marriage. Photocopy of Passports required only at the time of submission of form.<<< to be reomove After submission of the forms, newspaper advertisement is to be given by the individuals for publication in a widely circulated Newspaper in India/concerned country in the place of permanent residence indicated in the passport and in the country or countries in which the parties are ordinarily resident. The advertisement should contain the full text as provided by HCI, London.

NOTE: All the particulars in the forms must be filled-in as per entries in the passport. For forms pertaining to solemnization of marriage under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969, please visit the link '[Forms for Consular Services](#)'.

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