

Marriage of Foreign Nationals travelling or working in Australia

Couples from other countries travelling to or working in Australia may marry in Australia. They are required to lodge a Notice of Intended Marriage form with a Registered Marriage Celebrant at least a clear calendar month before the proposed date of marriage.

The Notice of Intended Marriage can be downloaded from the Australian Government Attorney General's department at their website <http://www.ag.gov.au/FamiliesAndMarriage/Marriage/Documents/NoticeofIntendedMarriageForm.pdf> , or your Celebrant may be able to post or email one to you. **If completing the NOIM overseas, it must be signed by the parties to the marriage and their signatures witnessed by an Australian Consular Official or Diplomatic Officer, by a Notary Public or by the range of other people listed on the back of the Notice.** The completed Notice of Intended Marriage [NOIM] must be received by the Celebrant at least one clear calendar month before the planned date of the marriage.

Before the marriage ceremony, couples are required to show the celebrant their official Birth Certificates or extracts and/or passports which must show the date and place of birth. If either party has been married before, documentary evidence of the termination of that marriage must also be produced. If any of the documentation is not in English the celebrant can request an official translation of the documents.

The use of websites and email is a useful tool for overseas couples finding a Celebrant in Australia and assists them in communicating their needs to their marriage celebrant.

No rights to remain in Australia are conferred by marriage in Australia, including for someone marrying an Australian citizen. For information about migrating to Australia, you should contact the Australian Consular Office in your home country.



Apostille Stamps

Some couples from overseas countries, who marry in Australia, require an Authentication or an Apostille Stamp to be placed on the registered copy of their Marriage Certificate issued by the Registrar of Births, Deaths & Marriages. To determine if you require an Apostille or Authentication stamp follow the link to Smart Traveller <http://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/authen.html>

Certain countries require this before they accept an Australian marriage as a legal marriage.

If you have this situation your celebrant may be able to assist in arranging the formalities, usually for a fee. Alternatively you can organise it yourself.

This is how:

1. After the marriage ceremony, the Celebrant registers the marriage with the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
2. You then need to obtain a copy of your official marriage certificate from the Registry by making application and paying the appropriate fee.
3. The official marriage certificate must then be sent [or taken to] the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in the capital city of the State or Territory in which you were married or to the Canberra office in the ACT with a request to have an Apostille stamp affixed to the marriage certificate. The processing fee is currently \$60.
4. The Department will post the Certificate back to your home country unless you request that it be returned to an address in Australia.

Further details can be obtained from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Apostille

An Apostille may only be obtained from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade state or territory offices. Contact details are provided below:

Melbourne, Victoria

e-mail: notarialsvic@dfat.gov.au

Sydney, New South Wales

e-mail: dfat.nsw@dfat.gov.au

Canberra, Australian Capital Territory

e-mail: consular.feedback@dfat.gov.au

Adelaide, South Australia

e-mail: adelaide.sa@dfat.gov.au

Brisbane, Queensland

e-mail: dfatbris@dfat.gov.au

Darwin, Northern Territory

e-mail: dfat.darwin@dfat.gov.au

Hobart, Tasmania

e-mail: dfat.tasmania@dfat.gov.au

Perth, Western Australia

e-mail: enquirieswa@dfat.gov.au

If you can't get to an office, check with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade office in your state or territory about how to send the document and how it will be returned to you, as well as what fees are applicable.