

GUIDANCE FOR BRITISH NATIONALS WISHING TO MARRY IN THAILAND

- This information on marriage in Thailand is provided as a general guide and is based on the information provided to the British Embassy by the Thai authorities. Therefore the British Embassy does not guarantee that the information is accurate and will not be liable for any inaccurate or incomplete information. British nationals wishing to marry in Thailand must also contact the Thai authorities to be sure of the requirements that they need in order for their marriage to take place.
- The British Embassy in Bangkok is not authorised to perform marriages.
- Any marriage in Thailand should be performed according to Thai law and any detailed questions on the procedure should be addressed to the appropriate Thai authorities. Some guidance is provided on the website of the **Royal Thai Embassy in London**
- The Thai authorities require that any foreign national wishing to marry in Thailand obtained an “affirmation of freedom to marry”. This affirmation must be made in person at the Consular Section of the British Embassy in Bangkok. It is not possible to obtain the affirmation from the United Kingdom in advance.
- The marriage will only be recognised under UK law if it is valid under Thai law. For it is to be valid in Thai law, the marriage must be registered with the Registrar at an Amphur office (District Office). A religious ceremony on its own is not recognised as being valid under Thai law.
- The Thai marriage certificate will be in Thai only. You may wish to commission a “sworn translation” of the marriage certificate from a translation bureau, so that you can use the document for legal purposes in the U.K.
- Consular Section can arrange for your marriage certificate to be deposited with the General Register Office (GRO) in the United Kingdom. This not a legal obligation and has no bearing on the validity or otherwise of the marriage. It simply means that you are able to obtain a certified copy of your marriage certificate directly from the GRO, should you need to do so in the future. Please ask us for further details if you wish do this
- A foreign national does not automatically acquire British nationality through marriage to a British national.

If you marry a Thai national, he or she will require a visa to visit or settle in the UK. Further information on how to apply for a visa can be obtained from the UK Visa Application Centre. They can be contacted directly on +66 (0)2800 8050 or by e-mail: info@ukvac-th.com

Please note that we are not able to answer individual enquiries about the procedure to marry in Thailand.

- **NB: THE FEES MAY ALTER WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE**

This information is provided for general guidance only and has no legal authority.

<p>1. Obtain the affirmation in person from the British Embassy in Bangkok</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please retype the affirmation including your details on one page in the same format as the attached sample and bring it in person to the Embassy to sign before a British Consular official. <p>We accept affirmations during normal working hours (0800-1100 and 1300-1530 Monday –Thursday and 0800-1200 on Friday) It is <u>not</u> possible to make a prior appointment for this service. The completed affirmation will ready for collection from the Embassy between <u>from 09.00 hrs on the following working day</u>. We are not able to arrange a same day service for the collection of completed affirmations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We charge Baht 2,915 per affirmation and we can provide this service to British nationals only. • Please bring with you to the Embassy your passport, as proof of identity, and evidence that any previous marriages have been dissolved/terminated (death certificate or divorce certificate(s) as appropriate). Only the original evidence or a certified copy will be accepted – photocopies will not be accepted under any circumstances.
<p>2. Have the affirmation translated into Thai</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once the affirmation has been signed, you will need to have it translated into Thai. Please note that Consular Section does not undertake the preparation or translation of documents. Many reputable translation companies advertise on the internet as well as in the Thai local press, and there are a number of companies within a short walk of the Embassy. The Embassy is unable to recommend any particular firms.
<p>3. Have the affirmation authenticated and translation certified</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Thai Registrars will require authentication of the British Consular Official’s signature and certification of the Thai translation. This must be obtained from: The Legalisation Division Department of Consular Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs (www.mfa.go.th) <p>123 Chaeng Wattana Road, Laksi District, Bangkok 10210 Tel : 0 2575 1056–59, 0 2981 7171 , Fax : 0 2575 1054 Email : consular04@mfa.go.th (0830 – 1530 hrs)</p> <p>A fee is payable. The service normally takes 2 working days, although it is possible to pay an express fee for a same day service.</p>
<p>4. Submit the document to the Registrar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The affirmation and translation are then ready for submission to the registrar, who, if satisfied, will register the marriage and issue a Thai marriage certificate.