



Naval Legal Service Office Pacific
Legal Assistance Division
PSC 473 Box 14
FPO AP 96349-2400

Yokosuka, Japan
DSN 243-5141
Off-base: 046-816-5141
Facsimile: DSN 243-5829

Preventative Law Series

Marriage in Japan

If you wish to marry in Japan, you will do so according to Japanese law. Marriage in Japan consists of a civil marriage registration by the couple at a Japanese city/ward office. Only this civil registration constitutes a legal marriage in Japan. Ceremonies performed by religious or fraternal bodies in Japan are not legal marriages.

The following are steps to register marriage in Japan.

1. Obtain an "Affidavit of Competency to Marry" at NLSO. Blank form is attached to this handout for your convenience. Sample and instruction to fill out the form is available at NLSO front desk.
 - Use passport for evidence of your citizenship. If you don't have passport, use birth certificate issued by government authority containing name of state and country. The birth certificate must be original with seal, and accompanied with translation. Military ID does not prove citizenship.
 - Individual from country other than U.S. and Japan should obtain an affidavit from their Embassy in Japan.
2. Translate the notarized affidavit into Japanese using sample on the reverse. Blank translation form is also attached to this handout for your convenience.
3. Fill out Report of Marriage form in Japanese. You would need two witnesses older than 20 years old to sign the form. Blank form is available at any city office and their branch offices. The closest one from Yokosuka Base is on the 7th Floor of MORE'S CITY Building.
4. Bring your passport (birth certificate and its translation if you don't have passport), report of marriage, affidavit of competency to marry, and its translation to City Hall between **0830-1100 and 1300-1600**.
 - If you are marrying to a Japanese national, submit your report of marriage to City Hall or Ward Office where your prospective spouse has residency or has permanent address.
日本人の方と結婚される場合、婚姻の届出は必ず日本人の方の住民登録地または本籍地の市区役所へ提出してください。
 - If you are marrying a foreign resident of Japan, submit your report of marriage to the City Hall or Ward Office where your prospective spouse has registered foreign national residency.

If you have any question about marriage in Japan or need assistance in preparing report of marriage, please make an appointment to see our Japanese Legal Advisor.