

Military Steps

First, you must contact the Military Personnel Flight for the necessary paperwork

- AFI 36-2609; *Marriage in Overseas Commands*, paragraph 3 states Air Force personnel stationed in or visiting foreign countries are required to obtain written authorization from the senior overseas area Commander prior to marrying, a foreign national who is not a legal resident of the U.S.
- 3.3. Civilian personnel serving with, employed by or accompanying the Air Force outside the United States under Department of Defense (DoD) sponsorship are not required to submit applications for authorization to marry.
- If your intended partner is underage you will have to obtain written and notarized consent of the parents or legal guardian of the applicant and of the intended spouse.
- 3.8. Prior to granting authorization to marry, a medical examination will be required of each foreign national fiancé/fiancée and all dependents who will actually be residing with the prospective spouse, and that intend to seek admission to the U.S. The examination may be administered at either a U.S. Public Health Service office or a U.S. Forces medical facility and will be of sufficient scope and thoroughness to detect mental or physical illness or conditions
- Additionally, 3.9. Premarital investigations: Members will refer to their Unit Security Managers for determination of a premarital investigation in accordance with AFI 31-501, *Personnel Security Management Program Management*.

Civil Steps in the United Kingdom

- You must give notice at your local registrar office.
- The most commonly used registrar is Bury St. Edmunds, St Margaret's 7, The Churchyard, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1RX, United Kingdom (01284-732888).
- You must give notice of your intention to marry or form a civil partnership before your ceremony can take place.
- You need an appointment at your local Registration Office to complete your Notice of Marriage or Civil Partnership - this can be done up to **12** months before the date of your ceremony, but *no later than 28 days prior to the ceremony*
- The fee for giving notice of the marriage can be up to £100.

Where Can a Marriage Take Place?

A religious wedding can take place at a church, chapel or other registered religious building. Any premises approved by the local authority to include Hotels and Stately Homes. Religious blessings can take place after civil ceremonies in a registrar office.

Marriage Ceremony

Any marriage ceremony must be:

- 1) Conducted by a person or in the presence of a person authorized to register marriages in the district; and
- 2) Entered in the marriage registrar and signed by both parties, two witnesses, the person who conducted the ceremony and, if that person is not authorized to register marriages, the person who is registering the marriage.

Religious Marriage Ceremonies

No notice is required if the ceremony is conducted in the Church of England. Notice must be provided for all other religions.

Church of England, Jewish or Quaker leaders can register marriages. Ministers or priests of all other religions must have a certificate or license to register

marriages. All marriages may be registered if a Registrar is present.

Procedure for Marrying

When giving notice of your intention to marry, you are required to give your name, address, date of birth (if under 23 you must show your birth certificate), father's name and occupation, partner's father's name and occupation, and if applicable, documentary evidence that any previous marriages have ended.

Documents to Take to the Register Office

When you go to the registrar office, you need to take proof of your name, age and nationality by showing them at least two of the following:

- Passport
- Birth certificate
- Driving license
- National identity card
- Immigration status document

The Registrar also needs proof of your address, such as a driver's license or one of the following dated within the last three months:

- Gas, water or electricity bill
- Bank statement
- Council tax bill

You might need other documents if you don't have a valid passport and you were born after 1983. Check with the registrar office.

Overseas Recognition of U.K. Marriages

A legally valid marriage performed in the U.K. is recognized in many other countries. However, confirmation should be sought from the embassy of the country concerned.

Remarriage

If you've been married or in a civil partnership before, you need to take either:

- a decree absolute or final order; or
- The death certificate of your former partner.

A valid foreign divorce will usually be recognized in England and Wales.

Same Sex Couples

Since 29 March 2014, same sex couples can marry in the United Kingdom. (Ireland 16Nov2015)

You can:

- Form a civil partnership
- Marry
- Convert your civil partnership into a marriage

Same Sex Couples can not marry in an Anglican Church. They can marry in other religious buildings if:

- The religious organization allows same sex weddings to take place; or
- The premises has been registered for the marriage of same sex couples.

This handout is for basic information on topic covered as it relates to military personnel stationed in the United Kingdom. It is not intended to take the place of legal advice from a Judge Advocate. There may be important exceptions in some states to the information presented here. Please contact the Legal Office for questions and further information. You may view more information on various legal topics at the Air Force Legal Assistance website found at <https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil>. Additionally, complete legal worksheets for Wills, Living Wills, Powers of Attorney (General, Special, and for Health Care), and access to the Online Survey are found on the Air Force Legal Assistance website.

Scan Below to Access the:

RAF Mildenhall Legal Office Website
www.mildenhall.af.mil/Info/Legal-Office



Legal Assistance Website
<https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil>



Legal Assistance Information Series **MARRIAGE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM**



Hours of Operation (Walk-ins)
Notary Public & Powers of Attorney
Monday – Friday: 800-1630 hrs

Legal Assistance
By Appointment Only

100 ARW/JA
APO AE 09459
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Scan Below to Access Our Website
www.mildenhall.af.mil/Info/Legal-Office

