

Information for British nationals intending to marry in Thailand

The British Embassy in Bangkok is not authorised to perform marriages. Any marriage in Thailand should be performed according to Thai law and 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 www.thaiembassyuk.org.uk

The Thai authorities require that any foreign national wishing to marry in Thailand must obtain an “affirmation of freedom to marry” document. The affirmation must be made in person at the Consular Section of the British Embassy in Bangkok or the British Consulate in Chiang Mai. It is not possible to obtain the affirmation from the United Kingdom in advance.

For it 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. In Thailand, wedding ceremonies/parties can be held separately from the marriage registration.

The Thai marriage certificate will be in the Thai language only. You may wish to commission a sworn or certified translation of the marriage certificate from licensed translators. Please note the certificate is a legal document and should not be modified in any way e.g. by laminating.

A foreign national does not automatically acquire British nationality through marriage to a British national.

The Embassy cannot advise you the visa requirements for the spouse of Thai citizen. You can obtain this from Thai Immigration www.immigration.go.th

Information about how to apply for a UK Visa in Thailand can be found on the UK Visa Application Centre <http://www.vfs-uk-th.com> . If you have a general visa enquiry, you can call +66 (0)2 800 8050 or email your enquiry to info.ukth@vfshelpline.com

A step-by-step guide to the procedure for getting married in Thailand

1. Affirmation of Marital Status (Please be aware: Under the Perjury Act (1911) it is a criminal offence to knowingly make a false declaration. Offenders face the possibility of a fine and/ or a jail sentence.)

- please retype the affirmation on one page in the same format as the attached sample adding your details where required and bring it in person to the Embassy to sign before a Consular Official
- we accept affirmations during consular public opening hours (8am - 11am on Monday to Friday). An appointment for this service is not necessary.
- we provide this service to British nationals only. A consular fee of Thai Baht 2,970 per affirmation is payable. Please note that fees can change without prior notice and are non-refundable.
- please bring with you to the Embassy your passport, as proof of identity, and evidence that any previous marriages have been dissolved/terminated (you will need to show an original death certificate or divorce certificate, for the UK a decree absolute from the court). Certificates issued in a third country outside UK and Thailand must be certified by the relevant British Embassy/Consulate or its respective Embassy in Thailand. Only the original evidence or an official certified copy will be accepted – photocopies will not be accepted under any circumstances.

2. Have the affirmation translated into Thai - Once the affirmation has been signed, you will need to have it translated into Thai. The British Embassy 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. We cannot recommend any particular firms in the private sector to the public.

3. Have the affirmation authenticated and the translation certified - 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, Ministry of Foreign Affairs www.consular.go.th
 123 Chaeng Wattana Road, Laksi District, Bangkok 10210
 Telephone: +66 (0)2 575 1057– 60, (0)2981 7171 (at 8:30am – 3:30pm)
 Fax : +66 (0)2 575 1054 Email: consular04@mfa.go.th

4. Submit the document to the Registrar – The affirmation and translation are then ready for submission to the Registrar, who, if satisfied, will register the marriage and issue two identical Thai marriage certificates to both you and your spouse.