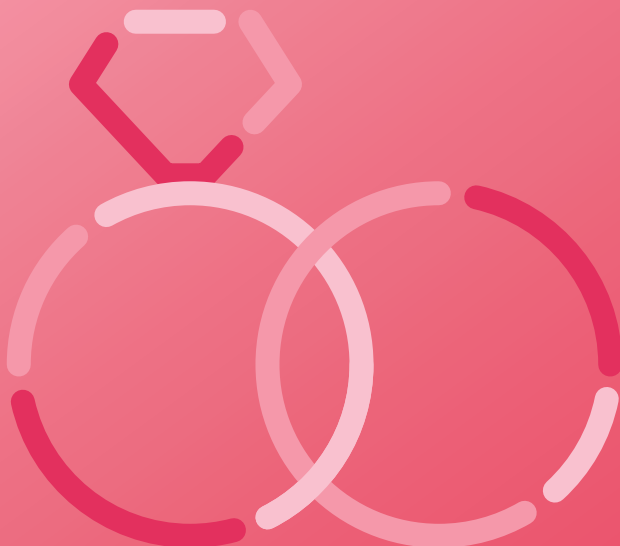




入境事務處  
Immigration Department

# MARRIAGE REGISTRATION



Immigration Department  
website

This leaflet aims to introduce the procedures of marriage registration as well as information related to various marriage registries. You are advised to read through the contents of this leaflet before making the application. For the detailed provisions on marriage registration, please refer to the Marriage Ordinance, Chapter 181, Laws of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Under the Marriage Ordinance, a marriage in Hong Kong will go through the following procedures:

- One of the proposed parties to the intended marriage shall give a notice of intended marriage (“notice”) to the Registrar of Marriages (“Registrar”) either directly or through a civil celebrant of marriages (“civil celebrant”);
- If the marriage does not take place within 3 months after the giving of the notice, the notice and all proceedings thereupon shall be void, and another notice will be required before the parties can contract a marriage;
- The Registrar shall exhibit one copy of Part I of a notice at the office of the Registrar until he issues a Certificate of Registrar of Marriages or until the aforementioned 3 months expire;
- Under normal circumstances and at least 15 days after the giving of a notice, the Registrar will issue a Certificate of Registrar of Marriages. The Registrar may also refuse to issue a Certificate of Registrar of Marriages in relation to an intended marriage in accordance with the Marriage Ordinance.
- After the issue of a Certificate of Registrar of Marriages, the parties may, subject to the relevant provision of the Marriage Ordinance, contract a marriage before the Registrar, a competent minister or a civil celebrant.

There are no residential requirements and the marrying parties may be of any nationality. The minimum legal age for getting married is 16 years of age (Gregorian Reckoning).



## 2 Procedures



### Giving Notice of Intended Marriage



Persons intending to get married, whether the marriage is to take place at a marriage registry by a Registrar; in a licensed place of worship by a competent minister; or at any other place in Hong Kong by a civil celebrant, are required to give a notice of intended marriage on the prescribed form in advance to the Registrar.

The notice, except for a notice from outside the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (mentioned later), is given by one or both of the parties to the intended marriage to the marriage registry either directly or through a civil celebrant with their Hong Kong identity cards or travel documents. It is not necessary to fill in any application form upon giving the notice. However, the following personal particulars of both parties must be provided including full names; marital condition (whether bachelor or widower, spinster or widow; whether a divorced person or previously married by any form of marriage); occupation; date of birth; residential addresses and the full name of parents of each of the parties in facilitating the printing of the notice. In the case of a party under the age of 21, the name and address of the person consenting to the marriage, and also the capacity of this person—that is, the relevant person specified in Schedule 3 to the Marriage Ordinance. The party giving the notice is also required to make an affidavit of no impediment before the Registrar or the civil celebrant.

To shorten the processing time at Registrar's office of giving the notice, marrying parties may choose to complete the information sheet 'Information Required for Registration of Marriage' (MR21B) in advance and submit it at the time the notice is given. Please note that 'Information Required for Registration of Marriage' is neither an application form nor a "Notice of Intended Marriage".

Part I of the given notice will be exhibited at the marriage registries (other than Cotton Tree Drive Marriage Registry and City Hall Marriage Registry) and the Marriage Registration & Records Office for at least 15 clear days. During this period any person whose consent to an intended marriage is required may raise objection to the intended marriage to the Registrar. If the Registrar is satisfied that the person has no such right, he may allow the marriage to proceed. If, however, he is satisfied that the objection is valid, either of the parties may appeal against his decision by petition to the Court of First Instance to determine the matter. The decision of the Court of First Instance is final.

If no objection is received after the period of 15 clear days, the marriage may take place in the marriage registry. For marriage to be celebrated in a licensed place of worship or by a civil celebrant, the Registrar shall issue a Certificate of Registrar of Marriages directly to either of the proposed parties or through a civil celebrant nominated by either party.



While the normal exhibition period of notice is 15 clear days, the Registrar may shorten this period in special circumstances. Each case will be considered on its individual merits. A special fee will be charged for such case.

## **Persons aged below 21, Divorcees and Widower/Widow**

If either party is of or over 16 and under 21 years of age as at the date of marriage (Gregorian Reckoning) and not a widower or widow, the written consent of the relevant person specified in Schedule 3 to the Marriage Ordinance must be produced. If consent is given by a parent, the party's birth certificate and the parent's marriage certificate are required. Forms for giving such consent are available at any of the marriage registries or from any civil celebrants. If there is no such person capable of consenting, the party may apply to a District Judge for such consent.

In the case of a divorced person, proof of the dissolution of the former marriage by decree pronounced by a competent court is required; and before the marriage takes place, a sealed, certified copy of the court's final decree must be produced to the Registrar. The question of whether or not a particular decree is recognised in Hong Kong is too complicated to be summarised here and reference should be made to the detailed provisions of Part IX of the Matrimonial Causes Ordinance, Chapter 179.

In the case of a widower or widow, proof of former marriage and death certificate of former spouse are required.

If the required documents are not written in English or Chinese, certified translations of them are required.

## **Notices given outside Hong Kong**

In the event of both parties living outside Hong Kong, they may write direct to the Marriage Registration & Records Office at 3/F, Low Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong, for a copy of Notice Form for completion. They may also send email to the Immigration Department at [enquiry@immd.gov.hk](mailto:enquiry@immd.gov.hk) requesting for the form and information sheet. The form should be completed and signed by one or both of the marrying parties giving the notice and authenticated by a Notary Public of the country/territory where they reside. This form, when completed, should be returned to the office by registered airmail as soon as possible together with the required documents and information, and payment of the prescribed fee for filing and exhibition of the notice made

by Hong Kong dollar bank draft payable to 'The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region'. The marrying parties may also submit the notice through their local contact in Hong Kong or a civil celebrant of marriages to the Marriage Registration and Records Office.

The notice giving period starts from the date immediately after the date of receipt of the notice with all supporting documents at the office of the Registrar.

## Celebration of Marriage

A marriage may be celebrated by any competent minister of a licensed place of worship according to the rites or usages of marriage observed in such church, denomination, or body with open doors and between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.



A marriage celebrated by the Registrar shall take place in his office.

A marriage celebrated by a civil celebrant may take place at any hour and shall take place at any place in Hong Kong other than the office of the Registrar and a licensed place of worship.

Before a marriage is celebrated by the Registrar or a civil celebrant, each of the parties shall sign a written declaration in the presence of and witnessed by the Registrar or civil celebrant. If necessary, the declaration shall be interpreted to both or either of the parties in their or his or her own language in the presence of the Registrar or civil celebrant, and the person interpreting the declaration shall subscribe his or her name to it as interpreter.

Marriages shall take place in the presence of 2 or more witnesses aged 18 or above. The certificate of marriage shall be signed in duplicate by the Registrar, the officiating minister or the civil celebrant, by the parties and by 2 witnesses aged 18 or above. One certificate of marriage shall be delivered to the parties immediately after it is signed and the other one shall be filed in the Registrar's office.



For marriage celebrated in a marriage registry, the bride and bridegroom should attend 15 minutes before the time previously arranged with the Registrar, bringing two persons aged 18 or above to act and sign as witnesses. Relatives and friends may be invited to be present at the marriage ceremony. Rings may be exchanged between the parties.

### 3 Appointment Booking

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Marrying parties can book an appointment for giving the notice through the Internet: [www.gov.hk/marriagebooking](http://www.gov.hk/marriagebooking) or the Telephone Booking System at 3102 3883. The booking service is free of charge and both channels provide round-the-clock service. The appointment is given on a first-come-first-served basis. Marrying parties intending to have the marriage celebrated on a specified date at the marriage registry can make an appointment within 14 days before the 3-month period from the date of marriage. Marrying parties may also make an appointment on a date not earlier than 3 months before the marriage date if the marriage is to take place at a marriage registry by the Registrar without a fixed date of marriage, by a competent minister at a licensed place of worship, or by a civil celebrant of marriages at other places in Hong Kong. Marrying parties can only make **one** appointment through either the Internet or the Telephone Booking System. At least one of the marrying parties must attend the marriage registry/office according to the scheduled appointment to give the notice, bringing along the required documents. Please refer to the Immigration Department website ([www.immd.gov.hk](http://www.immd.gov.hk)) for details.

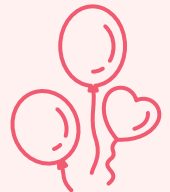
To shorten the processing time at Registrar's office of giving the notice, after having successfully made an appointment for giving the notice at the marriage registry through the Internet or the Telephone Booking System, marrying parties may submit the information sheet 'Information Required for Registration of Marriage' (MR21B) through the Internet at least one day before the scheduled appointment.

Appointments for marriage ceremonies at marriage registries are given on a first come-first-served basis to ensure that every person will have a fair chance to choose a desired day for marriage. If the proposed marriage is to take place in a licensed place of worship, or celebrate by a civil celebrant, the parties should consult the officiating minister or civil celebrant for the exact day, time and place of the marriage.

### 4 Fees

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The prescribed fee for filing and exhibition of the notice is payable upon giving of the notice. A notice given through a civil celebrant shall be accompanied by the prescribed fee. For details of fees, please see Fee Leaflet (MR 60).




## 5 Processing Time at Counter


The standard processing time for an application for giving of notice at counter in a marriage registry is 30 minutes and filing procedure will be completed on the same day (upon receipt of all necessary documents). However, this standard may not be achievable during peak periods or in complicated cases.


## 6 Enquiries


You may visit the Immigration Department website at [www.immd.gov.hk](http://www.immd.gov.hk) for the lists of Civil Celebrants of Marriages and licensed places of worship.

 [www.immd.gov.hk](http://www.immd.gov.hk)

If you have any enquiry, please contact the Information and Liaison Section.

 2824 6111


 2877 7711


 [enquiry@immd.gov.hk](mailto:enquiry@immd.gov.hk)


## 7 Address and Office Hours of Marriage Registries

HONG KONG

### Marriage Registration & Records Office

 3rd Floor, Low Block, Queensway Government Offices,  
66 Queensway, Hong Kong.


 2867 2787

 Monday - Friday 8:45 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Sunday Closed

Public Holiday Closed

 NOTE: If the marriage ceremony is intended to take place at City Hall Marriage Registry or Cotton Tree Drive Marriage Registry, the notice of intended marriage should be given at this office.

## City Hall Marriage Registry



1st Floor, High Block, City Hall, Central.



2523 0725



Monday - Friday

8:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.  
2:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Saturday

(for marriage ceremonies  
only in the afternoon)

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
2:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Sunday

(for marriage ceremonies only)

9:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.  
2:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Public Holiday

Closed



NOTE: If the marriage ceremony is intended to take place at this Marriage Registry, the notice of intended marriage should be given at the Marriage Registration & Records Office at Queensway.

## Cotton Tree Drive Marriage Registry



Ground Floor, Rawlinson House,  
19 Cotton Tree Drive, Central.



2869 0500



Monday - Friday

8:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.  
2:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Saturday

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Sunday

(for marriage ceremonies only)

9:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.  
2:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Public Holiday

Closed



NOTE: If the marriage ceremony is intended to take place at this Marriage Registry, the notice of intended marriage should be given at the Marriage Registration & Records Office at Queensway.



## Tsim Sha Tsui Marriage Registry



Upper Basement & Level 3,  
Administration Building, Hong Kong Cultural Centre,  
10 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui.



2312 0929



Monday - Friday

8:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.  
2:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Saturday

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Sunday

(for marriage ceremonies only)

9:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.  
2:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Public Holiday

Closed

## Sha Tin Marriage Registry



Ground Floor, Sha Tin Town Hall,  
1 Yuen Wo Road, Sha Tin.



2604 6974



Monday - Friday

8:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.  
2:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Saturday

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Sunday

(for marriage ceremonies only)

9:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.  
2:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Public Holiday

Closed



## Tseung Kwan O Marriage Registry



Ground and 2nd Floor, Administration Tower,  
Immigration Headquarters, 61 Po Yap Road,  
Tseung Kwan O, New Territories



3861 7572



Monday - Friday

8:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Sunday

(for marriage ceremonies only)

9:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

2:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Public Holiday

Closed

## Tuen Mun Marriage Registry



Ground Floor, Tuen Mun Siu Lun Government Complex,  
19 Siu Lun Street, Tuen Mun.



2618 3789



Monday - Friday

8:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

2:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Saturday

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Sunday

Closed

Public Holiday

Closed

