

Consulate General of India
Belfast

Solemnization of marriage under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969

(A) Overview:

Applicants have to apply in person for Solemnization of Marriage. Marriages between two individuals can be solemnized at the Consulate General of India (CGI), Belfast under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. At least one of the parties to the intended marriage should be a citizen of India and should have resided in the UK for a period of not less than thirty days immediately preceding the date on which the notice of intended marriage is given to the Marriage Officer at the CGI, Belfast.

Please Note: *This facility is primarily meant for those Indian citizens who want to ensure that their marriage is recognized as valid in India. The fact that a marriage is valid under India's Foreign Marriage Act and that it is recognized as such in India does not necessarily mean that it will be recognized by the authorities in the UK. For knowing the validity of the Marriage Certificate under the laws of the United Kingdom, applicant may approach the relevant authorities in the United Kingdom.*

(B) Jurisdiction:

Consulate General of India, Belfast serves applicants from the **Northern Ireland.**

(C) Process/Guideline/Clarifications:

Procedure for solemnization of marriage and clarifications / guidance concerning solemnization of marriage:

The prospective bride and groom need to appear in person before the Marriage Officer at the Consulate General of India, Belfast along with three (3) witnesses with their valid passports.

They need to submit the prescribed "Notice of Intended Marriage" form duly filled-in and signed by both the parties along with a fee of **£42.00 in CASH** and **fee £10.00 each for Sworn Affidavit, total £62.00 in CASH** per application. They need to publish the "Notice of Intended Marriage" in a widely circulated newspaper in their home country, at the place of permanent residence as indicated in the passports of bride and groom, and in the country or countries in which the parties are ordinarily resident.

They are also required to fill-in and sign the prescribed Declaration and Sworn Affidavit. The Declaration needs to be signed by three (3) witnesses in the presence of the Marriage Officer.

A date for solemnization of the marriage is provided by applicant 30 days after the publication of the Notice of Intended Marriage provided no objections are received from any quarter.

On the scheduled date, the prospective couple and the three (3) witnesses need to come to the Consulate for solemnization of the marriage along with their original passports and self-attested copies of the same.

All the particulars in the forms must be filled-in as per entries in the passport. For forms pertaining to solemnization of marriage under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969,

1. What are the documents to be submitted at the Consulate prior to the marriage

- a) Notice of Intended Marriage, prescribed Declaration and Sworn Affidavit.
- b) Four (4) Passport size photos each of the prospective bride and groom.
- c) Photocopy of the valid passport and UK residence visa of the bride or groom, whoever is an Indian national.
- d) Address proof of bride and groom.
- e) Photocopy of the passports of the three (3) witnesses.
- f) The prospective bride and groom and the three (3) witnesses should also carry their original passports for verification at the time of the submission of the Notice.

2. When do the prospective bride and groom and the witnesses sign papers?

This needs to be done at the time of submission of Notice of Intended Marriage in front of the Marriage Officer.

3. What formalities are to be completed before the marriage can be solemnized?

- a) Notice in the prescribed format is to be published in a widely circulated newspaper in the home country, at the place of permanent residence as indicated in the passports of bride and groom, and in the country or countries in which the parties are ordinarily resident.
- b) In case, both bride and groom are from the same state in India, Notice is to be published only in one newspaper of that particular state.
- c) After the publication of Notice, the applicants are required to submit the concerned newspapers in original.

4. What formalities are to be completed before the marriage can be solemnized if one among the prospective couple is:

Not an Indian

- a) A No Objection/Bachelorhood Certificate is to be obtained from their respective Embassy/Consulate in the UK.
- b) In case, where the Embassy/Consulate does not issue such a certificate, a Sworn Affidavit attested by the respective Embassy/ Consulate of the country of the non-Indian applicant needs to be submitted.
- c) A certificate from the Embassy/Consulate of the non-Indian applicant stating that his/her country's respective law does not prohibit their nationals from marrying foreign nationals.

A Divorcee

A decree of divorce issued by the competent authority in India and attested by CPV Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in case the divorce has taken place in India. In case divorce has taken place in a country other than India, the divorce certificate needs to be attested by the competent authorities of the concerned country and should be counter attested by the concerned Indian Consulate accredited to that country.

A UK national

Since the UK authorities do not issue certificates of no impediment for marriages within the Commonwealth countries, no such certificate is required from the UK nationals.

5. How is the prospective couple informed about the date of solemnization of marriage and when?

There is a mandatory wait period of 30-days after publication of the Notice in the newspapers. The prospective couple can contact the Consulate on any day after publication of advertisement to fix up a date for solemnization of marriage.

6. When do the prospective bride and groom and the three witnesses submit their original passports?

They are required to do this one day before the actual solemnization of marriage. The passports are returned immediately after the solemnization along with marriage certificate.

7. Whether parents of the prospective bride and bridegroom will be informed about the submission of Notice of Intended Marriage?

No.

8. Whether people from different religions scan marry?

Yes. People from different religions can marry under Indian law.

9. What is the law under which marriage is solemnized?

The marriage is solemnized under Foreign Marriage Act,1969.

(D) Document Required for Intended Marriage:

a) **Appointment:** Once the online uploaded documents are scrutinised and verification done by the Consulate General of India, Belfast, **applicant needs to choose an appointment date through user dashboard on eSewa portal and secure online appointment for consular service before visit in-person** to submit the document for requested consular services. Please print and bring the appointment slip with you.

b) Miscellaneous Application form (Click here: <https://www.cgibelfast.gov.in/page/consular-forms/>) with recent Passport size photograph (preferably 2"X2") filled by each applicant.

- c) **Form-I** (Notice for Intended Marriage 4copies each) form, duly filled-in.
- d) **Form-II** (Declaration by prospective bride and bridegroom - in duplicate 2 copies each).
- e) **Form-III** (Sworn Affidavit by the prospective bride and bridegroom - in duplicate by each), duly attested by the Consulate General of India, Belfast.
- f) Four identical passport size recent photographs (preferably 2"X2") (of bride and groom). At least one of the parties must be on a residence visa of the UK. applicants have to bring photographs at the time of submission of the application in-person at Consulate and **not to be uploaded on the eSewa portal.**
- g) **Visa Status:** Self-attested copy of current valid **UK eVisa** (of both Bride and Bridegroom) which shows online record of individual's immigration status in the UK. Applicant must be UK resident.
- h) **Proof of address:** residence proof (of both Bride and Bridegroom), any of the following self-attested documents viz. copy of latest utility (land line telephone / electricity /gas / water or council tax bill) or Driving License or house contract / lease agreement etc. on which applicant's UK address is clearly mentioned to be submitted.
- i) Three witnesses with their original valid passports and self-attested copy of current valid UK eVisa which shows an online record of individual's immigration status in the UK. Witnesses must be UK residents.
- j) If one of the parties is not an Indian citizen, a No Objection Certificates/Affidavit (in respect of his/her marital status and willingness to marry an Indian) from the concerned Consulate/Embassy in UK.
- k) All five persons (bride, groom and three witnesses) are required to appear before the Marriage Officer for signatures with their original passports and a photocopy both at the time of submission of forms and at the time of solemnization of the Marriage.
- l) After submission of the forms, newspaper advertisements is to be given by the individuals for publication in a widely circulated Newspaper in India/concerned country in the place of permanent residence indicated in the passport and in the country or countries in which the parties are ordinarily resident. The advertisement should contain the full text as provided by Consulate.
- m) **Fees:** fee of **£42.00** in cash and fee **£10.00 each** for Sworn Affidavit, **total £62.00** in CASH per application. **The fees will be accepted in CASH only**, Credit/Debit card or other banking instrument will **NOT** be accepted.

(E) Procedure (How to apply on eSewa portal):

Please refer list of documents required mentioned above for Solemnization of Marriage before starting the process to register and upload the listed documents on the eSewa (eCCSS) portal. It is mandatory for the applicant to register on the below mentioned eCCSS portal **before in-person visit to the Consulate in Belfast to submit and sign the documents before the consular officer.**

Once you are ready with all required document to apply for Consular Service, please click

on below mentioned link and the system will redirect you to eCCSS portal:

<https://indianconsularservices.mea.gov.in/consularServices/>

Please check the required documents, fees, etc. for particular Consular service without registering on eCCSS portal. Once you are sure that you would like to avail particular consular service please follow the below steps.

- Signup and create your account using the New User Tab.
- Activate your account using OTP received on your registered email ID.
- Please login into your account and apply for the required service.
- Users can also avail multiple services with the same account.
- After selection of the service, please **upload the necessary documents** on eCCSS portal, link: <https://indianconsularservices.mea.gov.in/consularServices/>
- **All the documents to be uploaded on the eSewa portal must be of size less than 200 KB and in required format (pdf/jpeg/any other if required).**
- On successful submission of the documents, an electronic acknowledgment will be generated, which the applicant can print after logging in to his/her account.
- After scrutiny of the documents by the Consulate, the applicant will receive confirmation for payment of fees, which can be seen in the dashboard of his/her account.
- **Appointment:** On receipt of confirmation for payment of fees, the applicant needs to **choose an appointment date through user dashboard on eSewa portal** and secure online appointment for consular service before visiting Consulate General of India, Belfast in-person with all original and copies of documents to submit and sign before the consular officer for requested consular services. Please print and bring the appointment slip with you.
- The applicant has to check the status of the application periodically through user dashboard on eSewa portal.
- **Fees:** When the applicant visits the Consulate in Belfast in-person with prior appointment, he/she needs to bring all original and copies of supporting document as mentioned in service-wise document list, specified fees must be paid **in CASH only** at the Consulate. Personal Cheques, Credit or Debit Cards or any other Banking Instruments will **not** be accepted. Please try to tender exact fee amount. All fees are non- refundable.
- For any technical help (e.g. issues like sign up, log in), the user can mail to eSewa support email ID (support-eccss@nic.in). However, for any non- technical help (e.g. sending of documents/ appointment availability, list of required documents, service/application status etc.), the consulate should be contacted by email to cons.belfast@mea.gov.in.

- The Consulate reserves the right to reject attestation of documents, if the contents are considered objectionable or contrary to the Rules.

The original copies of the documents will be matched and verified with the uploaded documents before providing consular service to the applicant.

Apply for Miscellaneous Consular services eCCSS portal:

<https://indianconsularservices.mea.gov.in/consularServices/> (please click here)

Please note: Consulate General of India, Belfast has no agents for rendering these services to the applicants.
