C Marriage/Divorce

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Process of international divorce procedures

Divorce between a Japanese national and a foreigner

When divorce is not desired

Notification of non-acceptance of divorce notification

If the person concerned notifies the non-acceptance of divorce notification (This application form is available at your municipal administrative office) at the administrative office of the municipality that is his or her registered domicile or place of residence, the divorce will not be accepted for six months

When the two persons agree to the divorce

Amicable divorce

When the two persons do not agree, arbitration at a family court will be proposed

Arbitrated divorce

If the arbitration is unsuccessful, judicial proceedings at the family court will be proposed

Judicial divorce

If even this is unsuccessful, a court case at the family court will be proposed

Adjudicated divorce

Divorce between a foreigner and a foreigner

The factors necessery to bring about a divorce vary from country to country, so enquire at the embassy or consulate of your country in Japan, and undertake the necessary proceduresa

Documents you need to prepare

1 Divorce notification (This application form is available at the administrative office of your municipality. It requires signatures and seals from 2 witnesses over 20 years old.)
2 Family register (one copy)
3 Passport etc. (to prove nationality)
4 Certificate of registered items in the Foreign Resident Registry (acquire this at the administrative office of the municipality where the foreigner is registered)
5 In the case of arbitrated divorce etc., an attested copy of an ascertained document of proof, such as arbitration records, judicial records or a court judgment are submitted to the administrative office of the municipality that is the registered domicile pr the place of residence, by:

・In the case of amicable divorce, the two persons
・In the case of an arbitrated, judicial or adjudicated divorce, the petitioner

When this is accepted, a divorce in Japan will be brought about

At this point, you should ask for the notification of acceptance of divorce to be issued to you

The foreigner undertakes the procedures for divorce in his or her own country

The foreigner notifies the embassy or consulate of his or her own country with the notification of acceptance of divorce. Depending on the country, documents such as the court judgment in the case of an adjudicated divorce may be necessary, so after making enquiries as to whether this is the case, the foreigner prepares the necessary documents and notifies the embassy or consulate.

When this is accepted, a divorce is brought about in the foreigners' own country