

Multilingual Living Information



C Marriage/Divorce

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Here, we will describe marriage and divorce of foreigners according to Japanese law. The major difference from Japanese nationals is that in addition to providing a notification in Japan, a notification must be sent to the foreigner's own country as well. It is also necessary to undertake other kinds of notification for the marriage or divorce.

1 Marriage

An international marriage must confirm to the law of each country of the two persons who are marrying. It is important to undertake the procedures for marriage in both countries.

Specifically, the various notifications in addition to marriage notification (refer to [3 Notifications for marriage/divorce](#)) are stipulated in the relevant laws; please remember to undertake these procedures. In these cases, there are many instances where notifications are issued through places of work or schools, so please inform your place of work or school.

1-1 Marriage in Japan

The following conditions for marriage are stipulated under Japanese law. All of these conditions must be fulfilled.

- The minimum age for marriage is 18 in the case of men, 16 in the case of women (Article 731 of the Civil Law)
- In the case of persons under 20, parental consent is necessary (Article 737 of the Civil Law)
- Polygamy is prohibited (Article 732 of the Civil Law)
- In the case of a woman remarrying, legally six months or more must have elapsed since the day of her divorce (Article 733 of the Civil Law)
- A person cannot marry a close relative (a direct blood relative or close blood relative to the third degree) (Article 734 of the Civil Law)

