

GUIDE FOR U.S. MARINES OF U.S. CITIZEN TO MARRY IN JAPAN
Drafted by Legal Assistance Office - 253-5594 /5591/ 5592 (December 2, 2013)

This guide is prepared for **U.S. Marine member of U.S. citizenship** under SOFA to wed in Japan.

If you plan to marry in Japan, you must follow Japanese Laws and Regulation. Any religious ceremony at a chapel or any wedding installation does not make your marriage legal.

Members of Marines should be aware of the following #1 & #2 provisions in order to avoid any administrative problems at your military side.

1. It is strongly recommended that a military member notifies his/her unit commanding officer regarding his/her marriage in Japan through unit administrative procedures.
2. Pre-martial workshop attendance is strongly recommended. Please call MCFTB at 253-3754.

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Let's start if you plan to marry in Japan. Check on each step if you finish.

1. _____: Fill out the attached information sheet and your statement; then call **253-5594** for an appointment.

2. _____: At your appointment time, please bring your **ORIGINAL** evidence of U.S. Citizenship and any other relevant **ORIGINAL** documents, such as evidence of termination of previous marriage(s) if applicable.

1) Evidence of U.S. Citizenship: **ORIGINAL valid** U.S. Passport; U.S. State Birth Certificate issued your State Vital Office; Naturalization/Citizenship Certificate; or Consular report of birth abroad: **NO HOSPITAL RECORD**

2) Termination of previous marriage(s) if you have ever married before: Certified divorce decree by U.S. court, or death certificate if applicable. Original document is recommended.

3. _____: Upon submitting the information sheet and evidence of U.S. citizenship, Legal Assistance Office will prepare your "**Affidavit of Competency to Marry**" (see the sample with this instruction) for you to sign. This "Affidavit" is required by Japanese government for marriage in Japan. If you are **Non-U.S.** citizenship, please contact with your country consulate representative regarding how to prepare your legal capacity of marriage overseas; i.e. Philippine consulate, Mexican Embassy, etc.

4. _____: After your **affidavit of marriage** being executed at Legal Office, we can provide the following forms, so that you will register your marriage off-town, upon your request:

- 1) Report of Marriage form (brown) "Kon In Todoke" – must be filled in Japanese writing.
- 2) Translation forms into Japanese for all your English documents.

5. _____: You appear at a Japanese city/ward office off-base with the following documents:

- 1) Your original executed English "Affidavit of Competency to Marry" with translation
- 2) Your original U.S. citizenship evidence with translation
- 3) Your original military issued I.D. card with translation
- 4) Japanese report of marriage (Kon In Todoke) filled out correctly in Japanese writing
- 5) Carry some yen currency for getting a certificate of report of marriage

6. _____: You may obtain your certificate of acceptance of marriage (kon in juri shoumeisho), by paying some fee for the document. This is the legal proof of your marriage.

Big portion (bigger than legal size paper) costs around 1,400 yen;
Small portion (letter size paper) costs around 400 yen.

CONGRATULATIONS! - YOU ARE NOW MARRIED!!
(Please review more interested matters on the reverse side.)

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NOTES FOR YOUR INTERESTS:

(1) **ORIGINAL** evidence of U.S. citizenship: U.S. birth certificate issued by your birth State. If you use your birth certificate to prove your U.S. Citizenship, please obtain **two (2) certified** copies from your birth State. One is for submitting to the Japanese city office to register. One is for you to keep. Your birth certificate should be turned into a Japanese city office for marriage registration., The copy is not acceptable off-base; or VALID U.S. passport or Certificate of Naturalization, etc.

(2) **ORIGINAL or copy if unable to locate only limited to** an vidence of termination of all previous marriage(s) – if applicable: Certified copy of divorce decree from a court, or death certificate issued from the official custodian.

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OTHER THINGS TO KNOW:

If your fiancée is a U.S. citizen but not under SOFA status or third country national - living in Japan under Japanese visa status, or coming to Japan for marriage, **he/she is NOT UNDER SOFA**. ***Therefore, he/she needs to seek for information and/or assistance from U.S. Embassy Tokyo web site: <http://japan.usembassy.gov/> for U.S. citizen, or third country national's respective embassy or consulate located in Japan*** for marrying with U.S. citizen in Japan. Each country has its own regulations and document required. Or it is recommended to check with a local city office directly.

Translation – Anybody can translate your English documents into Japanese, i.e your fiancée, co-worker, or a friend. The Legal Assistance will do the translation for any documents related to your marriage as the last resort. If so, please call us at 253-5594. Legal Assistance Office will translate YOUR original documents into English.

AFTER MARRIAGE:

I.D. CARD issuance – Ask I-PAC or Admin/Personnel Office of your Unit.

Enrolling dependency status to personal records & tour conversion – Ask your Admin/Personnel Officer of your Unit.

Social Security Number for your Non-U.S. citizen family member(s) – Social Security Number is assigned to only U.S. citizen or Legal Permanent Resident

ITIN – Individual Tax Identification Number – this is used for tax filing if your family member is not eligible to get SSN. W-7 form for ITIN can be downloadable on the internet.

Tricare – Ask Branch Medical Clinic at 253-5571/5572.

SOFA status request – if your acquired family member(s) are from Third country, Non-SOFA U.S. citizen under Japanese visa status, it can be changed to a dependent status under SOFA. Please come to the Legal Assistance Office before the visa expires.

Immigrant Visa Petition: I-130 - If your acquired family member(s) is/are non-U.S. citizen(s), U.S. citizen sponsor must file this I-130 petition to USCIS office in Chicago Lockbox as quickly as possible. This is the first step to make your family members be eligible for legal resident status in future. The legal Assistance Office can provide the 1st package of I-130

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INFORMATION SHEET

Please fill out this sheet and call us at 253-5594 for an appointment.

Name (first, middle and last): _____

UNIT: _____ Rotation Date: _____

Telephone number: 253-_____ (w) and/or Cell _____

Parents' full name and nationality:

Father (First-Middle-Last) : _____

Nationality: U.S. Citizen or _____

Mother (First-Middle-Last-**maiden** name): _____

Nationality: U.S. Citizen or _____

Your birth order: _____th (1st, 2nd, 3rd) son or daughter of the above parents

Legal domicile/address in the U.S.: _____

Date of birth: _____

Place of birth: (City/State/Country) _____

Current address in Japan: PSC 561 Box _____ FPO AP 96310

What is your U.S. citizenship evidence: _____
(U.S. passport, certificate of citizenship/naturalization, or State Birth Certificate, etc.)

Date of termination of previous marriage(s) if any: _____

Where it occurred? (City, State, and Country) _____

PROSPECTIVE SPOUSE:

Name: _____

Nationality: _____

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After you complete this sheet and obtained required documents, please set up appointment at **253-5594** or e-mail at junko.sakamoto.ja@usmc.mil.

Thank you.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT REGARDING MARRIAGE OVERSEAS

I, _____ (USMC), am aware that MCBJ III order
(Rank – 1st name – Mid initial – Last name)
is cancelled. However, I understand the following matters.

- 1) It is better that my command will get notified of my marriage overseas through an applicable/appropriate chain of command on my own responsibility.
- 2) Attendance at Pre-martial workshop sponsored by MCFTB is strongly recommended for the military member who plans to marry overseas.

Signature

Date _____

With the Armed Forces Overseas)

U.S. Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, Japan) ss:

AFFIDAVIT OF COMPETENCY TO MARRY FOR:

Declarant:

(U.S. CITIZEN) , the _____ SON/DAUGHTER of

(Father's name) and _____ (Mother's
name)
Citizens of the United States of America

Legal domicile: _____

Date of birth: _____

Place of birth: _____

Occupation: _____

Evidence of Citizenship: U.S. BIRTH CERTIFICATE # _____ , FILED ON

IN THE STATE OF _____ or U.S. PASSPORT # _____

Local address: _____

I, above named, _____, being duly sworn, do declare that according to the law of my State I am of legal marriageable age, that I have not married before, and that there is no hindrance, legal or otherwise, to my uniting in marriage in Japan, with _____, a _____ citizen.

AFFIANT'S NAME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

SERVING WITH THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES AT MARINE CORPS AIR STATION, IWAKUNI, JAPAN

Before me personally appeared _____ AFFIANT'S NAME _____, who, having produced a Uniformed Services Identification Card, is known to me to be the identical person who is described herein, and who signed and executed the foregoing instrument on this day of _____ 20XX, as a true, free, and voluntary act and deed, for uses, purposes, and considerations therein set forth. And I do further certify that I am Commissioned/Non-Commissioned officer of the Armed Forces of the United States serving in the rank indicated below, that by federal law I am authorized to exercise the powers of a notary without requirement of a seal, and that this document is executed by me in accordance with those powers and in that capacity.
