



## British Embassy Athens

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### **Notes on Marriage in Greece**

British Consular Officers are unable to give authoritative information on marriage laws in Greece. In the case of Registry Marriages such advice should be obtained from the relevant Mayor's Office or the President of town communities - or in the case of a church marriage, from the priest or minister of the church where the marriage will be held.

In general, the Greek authorities require Certificates of No Impediment, full birth certificates and evidence of dissolution of previous marriages for all British citizens intending to marry in Greece.

Certified Greek translations of full birth certificates and evidence proving that any previous marriages have been dissolved (e.g. Decree Absolute Divorce Papers or Death Certificates) are essential. Please read relevant paragraph on this page setting out the procedures to be met for legalising and for obtaining official translations of these documents.

Applications for Marriage Licences, accompanied by all relevant documents, should then be made to the local Municipalities or Town Halls. This procedure normally takes 8 days after which a specific marriage date can be arranged.

### **Greek Registry marriage**

For a Greek registry marriage (e.g. a civil marriage in a Greek Municipality or Town Hall), British nationals resident in Greece should apply to the British Consular Authorities in Greece for their Certificates of No Impediment.

These certificates are issued 22 days after applicants have sworn an affidavit or signed a declaration at the nearest British Consular Office to the effect that no impediment to the proposed marriage exists. Such applicants must be resident in the relevant Consular district for at least 21 days prior to their application.

The Consular fee for this service is payable in cash for Receiving Notice of an Intended Marriage and for issuing in Greek a certificate that no impediment to an intended marriage has been shown to exist (please see relevant Consular Fee list). Alternatively, on production of Certificates of No Impediment issued by Registrars in the United Kingdom, British Consulates in Greece will issue the equivalent Greek document. The cost for this service is payable in cash (please see link below to Consular Fee list).

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In the United Kingdom, Certificates of No Impediment are issued to UK residents by local Superintendent Registrars after 15 days notice has been given.

### **Greek Orthodox Church marriage**

If a wedding is to take place in the Greek Orthodox Church, it is important for the Greek Orthodox partner to gain information from the priest of the church where the wedding will take place.

The non-Orthodox partner who has been resident in Greece for at least 21 days should apply for a Certificate of No-Impediment to the British Embassy in Athens or to the British Consulates in Greece. The Consular fee for preparing an affidavit, administering an oath and for preparing a certificate of no impediment is payable in cash (please see link below to Consular Fee list).

Then the Certificate of No Impediment must be signed, sealed and dated by the Anglican Church Authority. For all regions of Greece, except Corfu, direct your enquiry to, the Chaplain of St Paul's Anglican Church, Athens, Tel no: 210-7214 906 ([anglican@otenet.gr](mailto:anglican@otenet.gr)). For Corfu, contact the Chaplain of the Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Corfu, Tel no: 26610 31467 ([holytrin@otenet.gr](mailto:holytrin@otenet.gr)). They can sign such certificates for Anglicans (Church of England), Protestants, Presbyterians, Methodists or any religious denomination in communion with the Anglican Church.

### **Church of England (Anglican) Wedding or Blessing of Marriage in Greece.**

There are four Church of England churches in Greece – in Athens, Corfu, Patras and Kefalas, which is near Chania in Crete. Premises are made available in Thessaloniki.

Within certain circumstances it is possible to have a Church of England (Anglican) wedding in one of these churches. Since Chaplains of the Church of England cannot act as a registrar in Greece it is necessary that such weddings are preceded by a civil marriage.

Enquiries about a Church of England (Anglican) wedding or a Blessing of Marriage ought to be addressed by the couple themselves (not through a wedding planner) to a Chaplain at one of the following:.

Athens: St Paul's Church.	Tel. No.(+30) 210 721 4906. Email: <a href="mailto:anglican@otenet.gr">anglican@otenet.gr</a>
Corfu: Holy Trinity Church	Tel No ( +30) 266 103 1467. Email: <a href="mailto:holytrin@otenet.gr">holytrin@otenet.gr</a>
Patras:	St Andrews. Administered through Athens
Kefalas: Nr. Chania, Crete	Tel No (+30) 282 502 3270. Email: <a href="mailto:kritilanes@yahoo.co.uk">kritilanes@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Thessaloniki:	Administered through Athens

### **Certified translations**

Documents emanating from foreign countries (including Britain) which are to be used in Greece must be officially legalised with the Hague Convention 'Apostille' (available for British public documents from the Legalisation Office, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Norfolk House (West) 437 Silbury Boulevard, Milton Keynes MK9 2AH, telephone no:00 44 1908 295 111). Such documents will then need to be officially translated by a Greek Consulate abroad (including Britain)

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or, if in Greece, by the Translation Bureau of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs at: Arionos 10, Psyrri 105-54 Athens, tel: 210-328 5713/6. (Working Hours: 09.00- 13.00).

### **Nationality**

1. Women marrying Greek nationals do not acquire Greek nationality by reason of marriage. Foreign (including British) nationals, who are legally resident in Greece, are eligible to apply for naturalisation as a Greek national either through residence or through marriage and parallel residence.
2. Specific legislation on Nationality matters is only available from the Greek authorities. In Athens, applications for nationality should be made to the Nationality Division of the Greek Ministry of Interior. In other areas in Greece such applications are made at the Nomarchy of the area where the person is resident or where the marriage took place. Marriage to a Greek national does not cause a woman to lose her British nationality.
3. A Greek woman who marries a British citizen does not automatically acquire British citizenship through marriage. However, she may apply to be naturalised as a British citizen after 3 (three) years' of residence in the United Kingdom provided the marriage sustains. A Greek woman who marries a British Overseas Citizen is unable to acquire her husband's citizenship.

### **Children**

Children born in the United Kingdom will be British Citizens at birth if either parent is a British Citizen or is 'settled'\* in the United Kingdom. Children born in the United Kingdom of a Greek father will acquire Greek nationality. Similarly, children born after 8 May 1984 in the United Kingdom of a Greek mother will also acquire Greek nationality, if they are registered with the Greek authorities.

Children born in Greece of a British Citizen parent who was born in the United Kingdom will be British Citizens by descent.

(\* 'Settled' means being ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom without being subject under the immigration laws to any restriction on the period for which that person may remain.)

Link to Consular Fee list: <http://ukingreece.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/5610670/consular-fees>  
(Ctrl + click to follow link)

Customer feedback: We welcome your views on the assistance we provide. We use your feedback to identify areas we need to improve. We would be grateful if you would take a few minutes to complete our customer feedback form which is available on line - [www.ukingreece.fco.gov.uk/en/help-for-british-nationals/customer-feedback/](http://www.ukingreece.fco.gov.uk/en/help-for-british-nationals/customer-feedback/)

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