

MARRIAGES OF BRITISH CITIZENS IN ITALY

1. Marriages are not celebrated at British Consulates in Italy.
2. Italian civil marriages, and marriages celebrated in Italy according to religious rites and subsequently transcribed into the Italian civil register, are recognised as valid under British law providing no obstacles existed, which would have prevented the marriage taking place under the law of the appropriate part of the United Kingdom.
3. For further information about civil marriages in Italy, or the registration of a religious marriage in the civil register, application should be made to the Italian authorities (*Comune*).

Father Lawrence MacLean, the present incumbent of St Mark's English Church, Via Maggio 6, 50125 Florence, tel: +39 055 294764, E-mail: lawrence.maclean@virgilio.it is willing to perform a wedding service (sacramental marriage) **but only after** a civil ceremony has taken place elsewhere. (The Church of England is **not** recognised by the Italian State and therefore a marriage ceremony which only takes place there cannot subsequently be transcribed into the Italian civil register.) Please refer to Father Lawrence for application forms and further information. He also officiates at St Peter's Anglican Church in Siena.

For information about Catholic and other religious marriages, approach should be made direct to the minister of religion of the denomination concerned.

4. The Italian authorities require the production of a Consular Certificate of No Impediment (*Nulla Osta*) before the marriage of a British citizen may be celebrated or registered.

This certificate may be obtained in one of the following ways:

MARRIAGE BETWEEN A BRITISH CITIZEN AND A FOREIGN NATIONAL

- (i) **Where the British citizen has resided within the Consular District in which the marriage is to take place for at least 21 clear days preceding posting up of Notice of Marriage (that is not counting the day of arrival or the day of posting Notice):**

Notice of Marriage is given to the Consular Officer and posted up for a period of a **further 21 clear days**. If no impediment is shown to exist at the end of this period, a Certificate of No Impediment is issued to the British party.

- (ii) **Where the British citizen resides outside the Consular District in which the marriage is to take place (but not in the UK):**

Notice of Marriage is given as in (i) above to the Consular Officer of the district of residence. If no impediment is shown to exist at the end of the 21 day period of posting, the Consular Officer issues a certificate of the posting of notice for production to the Consular Officer of the district where the marriage is to take place. The latter then issues a Certificate of No Impediment to the British party.

- (iii) **Where the British Citizen resides in the UK:**

Notice of Marriage is given to the Superintending Registrar in the district of residence in the UK (can be up to 21 days). The Registrar subsequently issues a certificate of the posting of notice (Superintendent Registrar's Certificate of No Impediment to Marriage) for production to the Consular Officer of the district where the marriage is to take place. The latter then issues a Certificate of No Impediment (*Nulla Osta*) to the British party.

MARRIAGE BETWEEN TWO BRITISH CITIZENS

(iv) **Where both parties to the marriage fulfil the residence qualification as at (i) above:**

Notices of Marriage are given by each party to the Consular Officer as at (i) above and if no impediment is shown to exist at the end of the 21 day period of posting, Certificates of No Impediment are issued to **both** parties.

(v) **Where only one party to the marriage fulfils the residence qualification as at (i) above:**

The party fulfilling the residence qualifications follows the procedure as at (i) above. The other party gives Notice of Marriage to the competent authority (in the United Kingdom the Superintending Registrar in the district of residence, elsewhere a British Consular Officer). The certificate of the posting of notice subsequently issued is then presented to the Consular Officer of the district where the marriage is to take place. The latter then issues Certificates of No Impediment (*Nulla Osta*) to both parties.

(vi) **Where neither party fulfils the residence qualification as at (i) above:**

Notices of Marriage should be given to the Superintending Registrar/s in the district of residence of the parties. (See para 4 (iii) above). If you reside outside of the UK see para 4 (ii).

If the parties are **not officially resident** the *Comune* also need sworn declarations to the effect that they are free to marry. In most *Comuni* these declarations can now be done directly in the Town Hall. In the case of two foreigners **not officially resident in Italy** the *Comune* do not normally require a period of residency nor to publish banns, however it is advisable to plan on being in Italy for about **one week** before the ceremony to sort out the local legal requirements. Some Municipal Authorities in Italy charge **non-residents** an extra fee for marriages, so the parties should enquire about these charges at the time of booking the ceremony.

If neither party speak Italian an interpreter will need to be present at the actual marriage ceremony as well as helping with the Italian documentation. Should you need names of private interpreters or agencies willing to perform this service, please consult Rome Embassy's website - www.britain.it - under "marriages" where you will find some marriage agencies listed for Italy.

If one or both of the parties are **officially resident in Italy** the Italian authorities normally require additional notice (following production of the Consular Certificate of No Impediment - *Nulla Osta*) to include two Sundays.

5. Where one party to the marriage is a British citizen and the other party is **not Italian**, the latter will be required to produce to the Italian authorities a Certificate of No Impediment issued by his/her own Consular authority. If the other party is **IRISH** and both parties live in England or Wales, the British citizen has to refer to the **FCO** on tel.number: 0207 008 0186. If a British citizen lives in a **Commonwealth** country please ask us about these procedures.

6. Documents required for posting Notice of Marriage by appointment with a British Consular Officer or for issuing a Consular Certificate of No Impediment (Nulla Osta) – photocopies are not acceptable:

British citizens:

- (a) British passport
- (b) **Original** birth certificate that **includes the names of both parents; the short version is not acceptable**
- (c) **Original** birth certificate that **includes the names of both parents; the short version is not acceptable**
- (d) Consent of parents or guardian if either party is under age.
- (e) Documentary evidence for either party of any previous marriage/s and their termination ie original *marriage and divorce certificates* (*decree absolute*), death certificates, etc. **(NB Under Italian Law women cannot remarry until 300 days have passed from the date of the "decree absolute", unless special dispensation is obtained from the Italian Courts.)**
- (f) Evidence of any change of name or surname.
- (g) *Certificato di Residenza* (Certificate of Residence) in the case of British citizens **officially resident in their local Italian "Comune"** (ie enrolled in the *Anagrafe*).

Italian or other citizens:

- (h) *Certificato di Stato Libero* or *Dichiarazione sostitutiva* for the Italian party to a marriage or Consular No Impediment Certificate for any other nationality.
- (i) Passport or Identity Document (with photograph) for the Italian, or other nationality, party to a marriage.

Please check carefully that the details on British passports, birth certificates etc are correct. If, for example, there are discrepancies in your names (names added/left off, wrong spellings etc) or date and place of birth etc, this might create problems with the Italian Authorities. Please also contact the Consulate in advance to make an appointment for posting of Notice of Marriage if you are resident in Italy in our district.

7. Consular fees payable (in Euro):

Each Notice of Marriage	Euro 87.00
Each Certificate of No Impediment (cash only)	Euro 87.00

British Consulate
Lungarno Corsini 2
50123 Florence
 Tel: 055 284133 Fax: 055 219112
Consular.Florence@fco.gov.uk

March 2007

----Couple Information Form----

In order to facilitate the issue of your Consular No Impediment Certificate, please fill this form in **clearly and accurately in block capitals**. (The couple should fill this form in and NOT the agent).

Notice: TO BE COMPLETED BY THE COUPLE

Contact phone number and E-mail:

Place & date of marriage:

	BRIDE	GROOM
Surname:		
All forenames (including middle names):		
Date of birth:		
Place of birth:		
Full address:		
All forenames & surname of father:		
All forenames & surname of mother:		
Mother's maiden name:		
Passport number:		
Issued by:		
Issue date:		

Please note:

- Please make sure there are no discrepancies between your birth certificate and your passport i.e. the **NAMES ON THE PASSPORT SHOULD READ THE SAME AS THOSE ON THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE.**
- If you have changed your name, **please provide relevant documents** e.g. Deed Poll.
- If one or both of your parents are Italian you may also have Italian citizenship, in which case you may have to marry as an Italian citizen (please contact your nearest Italian Consulate about this).

ADVICE TO BRITISH CITIZENS OF ITALIAN DESCENT WISHING TO MARRY IN ITALY:

If you are a British passport holder but one or both of your parents were born in Italy or of Italian descent, the following advice may apply to you. Some Italian town councils ("Comuni") will refuse to marry British passport holders of Italian descent on the basis of a certificate of no impediment issued by the British Consulate and require them to marry as Italian citizens.

Therefore all persons of Italian descent are advised to check with the Italian Comune (Town Hall) of marriage whether they will be allowed to marry as British Citizens.

The British Consulate cannot take any responsibility for those who fail to comply with the above.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE ABOVE ADVICE.

Signature

Date

These notes on marriage are provided as a general guide and are based upon information provided to the British Consulate in Florence by the relevant local authorities. The information in these notes is therefore only up to date and accurate to the extent that such authorities provide us with timely and accurate information. Accordingly the British Consulate in Florence does not guarantee that this information is accurate and will not be liable for any inaccuracies in this information. British nationals wishing to obtain information about marriage must also contact the relevant local authority to be sure of the requirements that they need in order for their ceremony to go ahead.