

Legal Marriage Process in Okinawa By David Higgins

(www.davehigginsoffice.com)

Steps to become legally married!

Step 1 - Affidavit

-Single Affidavit (one spouse is a US citizen, one spouse is a Japanese citizen)

-Joint Affidavit (both partners are US citizens)

Fill this out at the Legal Assistance Office.

The affidavit is the first step of this process. Military ID holders can have this affidavit notarized at the Legal Assistance Office on Camp Foster, Camp Hansen, Kadena Air Base, Torii Station or Camp Futenma.

You will need to provide evidence of your US citizenship with one (1) of the following: US passport, birth certificate, or naturalization certificate.

Step 2 -Marriage Application

Japanese Notification of Marriage Form You can pick this form up at the City Office or from my office (Dave Higgins Office). This 2-page form must be filled out in Japanese; therefore, if your spouse is Japanese you will most likely be able to complete this form out on your own. Before submitting your form, I offer a free service in which I proofread for accuracy. If both spouses are US citizens, I offer my services of completing the 2-page form for a fee. When two US citizens use my translation service, I will ensure correct documentation prior to submission. Two witnesses, each with a copy of their passports, are needed to sign the application. My wife and I can be your witnesses if you do not have any and we don't need to accompany you to the city office.

NOTE: Some city offices do not accept military ID as an acceptable form of witness identification.

Step 3 – Marriage Certificate

The Marriage Certificate If at the time of submitting your application along with all additional documents it meets Okinawa's current standards, you will be given the choice of two types of marriage certificates; an A4-sized legal document (350YEN) or B4 'Classic Look' Certificate (1400YEN). This document will be printed and require pick up the NEXT DAY. This is the perfect opportunity for wedding photos with family and friends to celebrate this process which can sometimes be difficult and time consuming.

Step 4- Translation of the Certificate

Translating the Japanese Certificate into English. The marriage document you will receive will be solely in the Japanese language. If you would like this translated into English, it must be done by an official legal translator. We at Dave Higgins Office are official legal translators and are located in Kadena Town providing translation service that usually takes 1-2 days. Please give us a call or email at www.davehigginsoffice.com

Congratulations, you are now legally married in Okinawa, Japan

