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Post dated passports

A woman or man who is to marry and is planning to travel abroad immediately after their wedding may apply for a [post dated passport](#) to be issued to them in advance in their future married name. An application may be received up to three months before the day of the wedding and a standard passport, of full validity, issued with effect from the date of marriage.

A woman or man, if they wish, can travel on a current passport in their maiden name immediately after the wedding. Where this is known (either from the application or covering letter) the applicant should be advised to carry their marriage certificate and consult a representative of the country to which they wish to travel in case a passport in their maiden name is not considered valid by that country.

An applicant applying for a passport in a future married name must submit, in addition to the appropriate supporting documents and photographs, a completed [Form PD2](#) (available from application form outlets and Regional Offices). The application form must be signed in the future married name.

NOTE: Applicants for post-dated passports ought to have been made aware at the time they booked their travel that certain countries (e.g. Australia) will not put visas in post-dated passports.

Where a marriage is postponed due to the illness of either party or, the death of an immediate member of either family (i.e. mother, father, brother, sister) and a new travel date is arranged, a "gratis" replacement post-dated passport may be issued. Before the replacement document is issued corroborative evidence of the illness or the death must be obtained.

Applicants whose weddings are brought forward, postponed for other reasons, or cancelled, must pay the fee for a replacement passport.

The current process for a [woman taking the husband's name upon marriage](#) is that they produce the marriage certificate as evidence; this process also applies when a [husband upon marriage is taking the wife's name](#) or when a [civil partner upon a civil partnership ceremony is taking their partner's name](#). As the link of the names would be evident on the marriage/civil partnership certificate, examiners would not need to request a [change of name deed](#).

Web application downloads

It is now possible for customers to download post date forms ([PD1](#) and [2](#)) from the IPS website. Most of the forms downloaded from the website will be printed on A4 paper. These forms should not be rejected solely because they are in a different format to the usual A5 printed versions. They are acceptable for IPS purposes provided they are fully complete and have been signed by the appropriate persons.

Where a marriage does not take place after the issue of a post dated passport

If a registrar or clergyman advises that the arrangements for a marriage have been cancelled or altered, this letter should be acknowledged and the cost of the postage refunded.

If, following this notification, the applicant does not surrender the post dated passport, a letter should be sent to the address in section 2 of the application form requesting the return of the passport.

If after one month the passport has not been returned, the system should be checked to ensure a subsequent passport has not been issued in the previous name and that there is no subsequent application at any office in the previous name.

If there is no trace of any subsequent issue or application and there is a contact number on the application, the applicant should be called and asked to return the passport. If a) there is no contact number, b) after a number of attempts the applicant cannot be contacted, or c) they are contacted but do

not return the passport after a further two weeks, then the case should be referred to the regional Fraud Intelligence Unit (FIU) department, who will look at the case and the letter from the Registrar to see if it is reasonable to enter the name on our stop file.

Use of maiden name by a married woman/husband

A married woman who continues to use her maiden name, and is known by it for all purposes, may on request have the observation ' **THE HOLDER IS THE WIFE OF** (name of husband)' entered in the passport. The application form should be signed in her maiden name.

The observation '**THE HOLDER IS ALSO KNOWN AS.....**' may also be entered on request where a woman maintains she uses both her husband's name and her maiden name and produces corroborative evidence to this effect.

Please see [Names](#) for more information.

Use of both surnames on marriage

Where a couple adopt both surnames on marriage and the examiner can clearly see how the name is derived, the use of both surnames is acceptable for [change of name](#) purposes. If a post-dated passport is requested, a completed [application PD2](#) will also be required. Examiners must ensure that all combinations of the name have been checked.

Replacing lost marriage certificates

Requests for the replacement of marriage certificates lost within the Passport Office or in the post when being returned to the applicant should be made in writing, with the agreement of a line manager, to:

- Birth in England and Wales: Office of National Statistics, Southport
- Birth in Scotland: The Registrar General, Edinburgh
- Birth in Northern Ireland: The Registrar General, Belfast

HM Forces marriage certificates

The Forces marriage registers have been used to register the marriages of members of the Armed Forces. However, the registrations are not always in forms recognised by either United Kingdom or foreign law and a Forces marriage certificate is not necessarily evidence of a valid marriage.

Before accepting such a Forces marriage certificate as evidence, an examiner should be satisfied the marriage was celebrated in accordance with Section 22 of the Foreign Marriages Act, 1892, or Section 2 of the Foreign Marriage Act 1947, and was celebrated by a British Forces Chaplain, or a properly appointed Naval, Army or Air Force Officer. If there is no record of the

appropriate Marriage Act on the marriage certificate, this can still be accepted providing it was solemnised by a services chaplain in a services church. Cases of doubt should be referred to a line manager.

Marriages overseas

In addition to Forces marriages overseas the following marriages overseas can be accepted as being valid in United Kingdom law:

- those celebrated at a British Consulate, and before a Civil Registrar
- those celebrated in a local church and registered by a Civil Registrar

Where an applicant provides documentation which shows a form of marriage which may be valid in the law of some countries and consequently in United Kingdom law should be referred to a line manager. Such documentation may include:

- Certification of marriage contracted in a country where polygamy is permitted
- Certification of marriage celebrated by Proxy (i.e. where only one party is present at the ceremony, and the other is represented by a person holding his or her proxy)
- A religious marriage certificate

Marriage in past or present Dependent Territories may be regarded as valid if celebrated by Ministers of recognised religious denominations.

Infant Hindu marriages

Applications involving an infant Hindu marriage (i.e. where either the groom is under the age of 18 years or where the bride was not 16 years of age at the time of marriage) should be referred to a line manager.

Marriages in Sri Lanka

Although some churches in Sri Lanka are authorised to solemnise marriages no list is available. However, all marriages must be recorded with the District Registrar within seven days. Where the birth of a child in Sri Lanka has been registered with the local authorities only and a claim to citizenship by descent rests on the validity of the parents' marriage, the registrar's marriage certificate should be requested.

If a child's birth certificate has been registered as legitimate by the British High Commission and a claim to citizenship is apparent, a marriage certificate need not be requested.

Islamic Marriage Certificates

Care should be taken when receiving applications accompanied by an Islamic Marriage Certificate which records the details of a marriage that took place in the UK.

There are only a small number of Mosques in the UK that are authorised to perform marriages according to UK regulations, although other mosques are able to perform marriages according to Islamic Rites.

Islamic marriage certificates that record the details of a marriage that took place in the UK are acceptable for [change of name](#) purposes. They should **not**, however, be accepted for status purposes under sections 1 and 2 of the British Nationality Act 1981 (BNA'81) or section 5 BNA'48 **unless** a marriage certificate also accompanies them issued by the civil authorities in the UK.

Islamic marriage certificates that record the details of a marriage that took place abroad are usually acceptable for both status and [change of name](#) purposes, provided the document provides details of a marriage that took place in an Islamic country. Any cases of doubt should be referred to the Policy Section.

Changes to Marriage Certificates in Northern Ireland

In May 2010 IPS received correspondence from the Northern Ireland General Register Office (NI GRO) informing us of planned changes to the format of their certificate. For information on how marriage certificates from Northern Ireland will be impacted, please see Birth Certificates – Changes to Birth, Death and Stillborn Certificates – Northern Ireland.