

He tono mō tētahi tiwhikete mō te aweto-kore ki te mārena, hono ā-ture rānei



Te Tari Taiwhenua
Internal Affairs

Application for certificate of no impediment to marriage or civil union

BDM189

Read these notes carefully before you start. Allow 14 days plus delivery time for your application to be processed. You should allow 4 weeks if your document also requires authentication or an apostille.

Hei mua i te tononga Before you apply

Certificate of no impediment to marriage/civil union (CONI)

Certain overseas countries require a CONI before allowing you to marry or enter into a civil union. The certificate is evidence that after searches and inquiries:

- no lawful impediment to the intended marriage or civil union has been shown to exist in your country of citizenship or residence, and
- according to New Zealand laws you are eligible to be married or enter into a civil union.

Marriage

A marriage is the formalisation of a relationship between two people, regardless of gender, in accordance with the Marriage Act 1955.

Civil Union

A civil union is the formalisation of a relationship between two people in accordance with the provisions of the Civil Union Act 2004 (in force from 26 April 2005).

Single status certificate (certificate of search)

Some countries require a single status certificate, or a similarly named document. This is used as evidence that you are single for the purpose of immigration or for a work permit. While Births, Deaths and Marriages do not have such a product, we do provide for a certificate of search that states that a search of the marriage and civil union registers has been carried out from a certain date (usually when the applicant turned 16). A certificate of search is mainly used

immigration purposes, visa and foreign passport application and registration of an event in the country concerned.

Cost of certificate

The base fee is NZ\$170.00 but there may be additional costs depending on the country you intend to get married in. Postage fees will be an additional \$5 to \$30.

Contact the appropriate embassy or consulate to confirm details.

Validity period of certificate

Some countries may treat a certificate of no impediment/certificate of search as valid only for a certain period after its issue date.

Contact the appropriate embassy or consulate to confirm details.

Your certificate of no impediment to marriage/civil union may require an apostille or authentication

Apostilled or e-apostilled certificate: This confirms that the person who signed the document has the authority to do so and that the document should therefore be recognised as legal without further evidence in another country which has joined the Hague Convention.

Authenticated certificate: This confirms that the person who signed the document has the authority to do so and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade verifies the signature and seal of the Department of Internal Affairs.

For more information about apostille or authentication refer to

www.govt.nz/authentications.

Who signs?

The person intending to get married or enter into a civil union outside New Zealand must complete and sign this application.

We will contact your parents, relatives or a friend

Your parent(s), relative or friend will be contacted by our office asking that they confirm that they know of no lawful impediment to you marrying or entering into a civil union. If you do not have any family or friends living in New Zealand you can provide the details of someone living overseas. Please indicate if either parent is deceased.

Registration of overseas marriages and civil unions in New Zealand

Your marriage or civil union should be registered in the country where it takes place. There is no legal requirement to have an overseas marriage registered in New Zealand. Overseas civil unions can not be registered in New Zealand. If you have married or entered into a civil union overseas and wish to confirm that your overseas marriage or civil union is valid in New Zealand you may apply to the Family Court for a declaration as to the validity of the marriage or civil union. Contact a lawyer to discuss whether it is necessary to obtain a declaration.

Marriages in an overseas country may be registered in New Zealand only if an officer from a New Zealand Embassy or High Commission attends the marriage ceremony. A certificate may then be sent by the Embassy or High Commission to the Registrar-General, and the marriage details are then able to be recorded in the New Zealand marriage register. You should liaise with the New Zealand Embassy or High Commission prior to the marriage taking place to establish whether a New Zealand representative is available to attend. Fees are payable to the Embassy or High Commission for this service.

What to do after certificate is issued

You should contact the local foreign mission of the country you intend to get married in as they may require that you send them the certificate to verify the signatures and seal. They will advise you about the processing requirements, fees and return of the documents.

Timeframe

Once Births, Deaths and Marriages has received the application, they are legally required to hold a certificate of no impediment for 14 days before releasing the certificate to be processed. You should allow 4 weeks if your document also requires authentication or apostille. Allow extra time for delivery.

Further information

Country specific information about the process, fee and timeframe to apply for a certificate of no impediment is available at www.govt.nz/bdm.

Contact Births, Deaths and Marriages or the appropriate embassy or consulate for further details.

Contact details

Website: www.govt.nz/bdm/contactus

Email: CONI@dia.govt.nz

Only use email for queries about the form. To return the form, follow the postage instructions on page 10. Do not email the completed form to us.

If you are overseas, you may contact New Zealand Embassies, High Commissions or Consulates

Privacy statement

Privacy Statement: The information provided on this form is collected under the Marriage Act 1955, Civil Union Act 2004 and Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Act 2021.

Fees statement

All fees are in New Zealand dollars. All fees are subject to change. They are current at the date of publishing this form.

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Instructions:

- You can complete this form on-screen using the Editable PDF functionality with Adobe Reader.
- You can use the Tab key to move between fillable form fields in Adobe Reader.
- You must still print off the application and have signed where applicable by hand.
- If filling out the form by hand, use CAPITAL letters.
- When you see this icon  it means you need to take extra care with your answers.
- Fill out this application form carefully or your application may be delayed or unsuccessful if incorrect or incomplete.

1. I give notice that, I

1a. Full name

First and middle names

Surname

1b. Name given at birth (if applicable)

If you have legally changed your name outside New Zealand, attach evidence.

First and middle names

Surname

1c. Date and location of birth

Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)

Town/city of birth (include country if not NZ)

If entering into a civil union and you were not born in New Zealand, what year did you arrive in NZ?

Year

2. at present residing at

Street number and name

Suburb

Town/city

Country

Email address

Phone number

3. Intend to:

- Get married with a certificate of no impediment
- Enter into a civil union with a certificate of no impediment
- Request a certificate of search ► give reason below

Full name of the person you intend to marry or enter into a civil union with

a national citizen of:

Country of nationality of the person you intend to marry or enter a civil union with

If entering into a civil union also provide the person's date and place of birth:

Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)

Place of birth

4. in (where you intend to get married or enter a civil union)

Town/city

Country

Date of marriage or civil union (if known)

5. Your first parent's details (must be completed)

You must provide your parent's full name. This applies even if they are not your referee. You do not have to provide your parents' contact details if you give contact details for an alternate referee in Section 7.

5a. First parent's details

Full name of:

- Mother
- Father

This parent is:

- Alive
- Deceased

First and middle names of parent

Surname of parent

5b. Parent's name given at birth (if different from above)

First and middle names

Surname

Section 5 continues over the page

5c. Parent's email address (if you are using parent as referee)

Email address

5d. Parent's address (if they live in New Zealand and you are using parent as referee)

Street number and name

Suburb

Town/city

Country

Postcode

6. Your second parent's details (must be completed)

You must provide your parent's full name. If you do not know your second parent's full name, give explanation in Section 14 'Additional notes'.

6a. Second parent's details

Full name of:

- Mother
- Father
- Other parent

This parent is:

- Alive
- Deceased

First and middle names of parent

Surname of parent

6b. Parent's name given at birth (if different from above)

First and middle names

Surname

6c. Parent's email address (if using parent as referee)

Email address

6d. Parent's address (if they live in New Zealand and you are using parent as referee)

Street number and name

Suburb

Town/city

Country

Postcode

7. Alternative referee

Provide the name and address of a relative or friend in New Zealand who has known you for at least 12 months. If you have provided the contact details of one or both of your parents, you can go straight to Section 8.

Full name of:

- Friend
 Relative

First and middle names of referee

Surname of referee

7c. Referee's email address

Email address

7d. Referee's address (if they live in New Zealand)

Street number and name

Suburb

Town/city

Country

Postcode



8. Details of previous marriage or civil union

I have:

- Not been in a marriage or civil union ► Go to section 9
 Been in a previous marriage ► Enter date and place fields below
 Been in a previous civil union ► Enter date and place fields below

Date of marriage or civil union (dd/mm/yyyy)

Place of marriage or civil union

Reason previous marriage/civil union ended:

- Death of spouse or partner ► Enter date below
 Dissolution/divorce ► Enter date below

Date (dd/mm/yyyy)

Attach a photocopy of all dissolution, divorce or death certificates to this application.
Include an official English translation of any document that is not in English language.



9. Signature

This must be of the person intending to get married or enter into a civil union outside NZ.

Signature

Date (dd/mm/yyyy)

Full name

10. CONI fee

The application fee for certificate of no impediment to marriage or civil union is **\$170**

Do you need an authentication or apostille?

Check if you need an authentication or apostille

Visit govt.nz/authentications and use the 'Check the country you are using your document in' tool.

Allow extra processing time if your document needs authentication or an apostille.

To view our current processing timeframes for authentications and apostilles, go to:

govt.nz/bdmtimeframes.

Apostille country

You can get a paper apostille, or an electronic apostille, called an e-apostille.

Ask the overseas organisation which type of apostille they want.

For a paper apostille, the Department of Internal Affairs Authentication Unit will put a covering page, called an apostille certificate, on top of your documents. They will be tied together with a ribbon and get an official embossed seal.

An e-apostille is a secure PDF version that's emailed to you.

Category A authentication country

Your documents will be authenticated by the Department of Internal Affairs Authentication Unit, and then sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) for verification.

Your authenticated documents will have a covering page on top with a stamp from MFAT. The documents will be tied together with a ribbon and get an official embossed seal. They are then sent to the address you included on your application form.

Category B authentication country

The process is more complicated for category B countries, so authentication costs more and takes longer. Some organisations that are in a category B country will let you change to get a category A authentication. It is worth asking the organisation if they will accept a category A authentication as they are quicker and cost less.



11. Authentications and apostilles (if needed)

Check if you need to do this with the authorities in the relevant country.

Enter quantity:

Apostilles

\$32 for 1 certificate
\$15 each for extra certificate

e-Apostilles

\$32 for 1 certificate
\$15 each for extra certificate

Category A authentication

\$65 for 1 certificate
\$31 each for extra certificate

Category B authentication

\$195 for 1 certificate
\$61 each for extra certificate

12. Document translation (if needed)

If you need a document translated, fill in this section. Otherwise, go to section 13.

Translation fee

The standard translation cost is NZ\$95. The Translation Service (www.dia.govt.nz/Translation-Service) will tell you if the fee is different for your translation. Your document will be forwarded to the Translation Service to process before it can be apostilled or authenticated.

Language for translation

Provide the characters/spellings of all names on the translation, if applicable:

13. Delivery

Delivery address

Delivery name

Street number and name

Suburb

Town/city

Country

Postcode

Courier fee

We do not offer standard post for security reasons.

Contact us if you are unsure whether we can deliver to your country. Contact information is on page 3.

The courier fees are:

- New Zealand: **\$5.**
- Australia, Asia, Pacific: **\$15.**
- USA: **\$20.**
- Europe (unless listed below): **\$25.**
- Rest of world: **\$30.**

Includes: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Croatia, Greece, Georgia, Macedonia, Malta and Moldova.

14. Additional instructions

15. Payment

Do not post cash or card. Do not email credit card details.

Charge my credit or debit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Prezzy Card) the correct fee:

Card number

Card expiry date

 /

Name on card

Cardholder signature

Next Steps

Print and sign the form.

Post or courier the form, appropriate fee(s), and documents to our office.

Postal address:

CONI Team
Births, Deaths and Marriages
Department of Internal Affairs
PO Box 10526
Wellington 6140
New Zealand

Courier address:

CONI Team
Births, Deaths and Marriages
Department of Internal Affairs
7 Waterloo Quay
Wellington 6011
New Zealand