

# Marriage between Japanese and Philippine nationals

NOTE: PLEASE CHECK DIRECTLY WITH THE CONCERNED CITY HALL FOR THE DETAILED PROCESS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

EMBASSY OF JAPAN IN THE PHILIPPINES

## PROCESS FLOW

- STEP 1: Apply for and receive a Certificate of Legal Capacity to Contract Marriage  
(This can be done at the Embassy of Japan in the Philippines or Consulate-General of Japan in Cebu and in Davao)
- STEP 2: Apply for and receive a Marriage License  
(at the city hall of the municipality where the Philippine national resides)
- STEP 3: Marriage Ceremony and receive Marriage Certificate (from the local civil registry of the place where the ceremony was held or from Philippine Statistics Authority)
- STEP 4: Submit a report of marriage form (either to the city hall of Japanese national's place of residence or the Embassy of Japan in the Philippines or Consulate-General of Japan in Cebu or Davao)

## STEP 1: CERTIFICATE OF LEGAL CAPACITY TO CONTRACT MARRIAGE APPLICATION

Requirements:

FOR THE JAPANESE NATIONAL	FOR THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL
Certified True Copy of Japanese Family Register (Koseki Tohon), within 3 months from date of issue 1 original	Birth Certificate 1 original (Certified True Copy of Birth Certificate issued by PSA or Local Civil Registrar)
❖ Certified True Copy of Removed Japanese Family Register (joseki tohon) and/or Japanese Family register before revision (kaiseigen koseki), within 6 months from date of issue. 1 original	* If birth certificate is unreadable, please present a valid passport, any valid government issued photo ID (Driver's License, Postal ID etc.) or baptismal certificate.
Original and valid Japanese Passport (photocopy will not be accepted)	* Filipino nationals below the age of 18 are not eligible for marriage.

If you have been married before, please be informed that your Certificate of Legal Capacity to Contract Marriage will state the information of your previous marriage (such as: date of marriage, date of divorce and name of former spouse.) Furthermore, a Divorce Certificate will also be need. Please prepare all the family register (*kaiseigen koseki* or family register before revision, *joseki tohon* or removed family register) that will show the information of the previous marriage.

If you are the head of the family and are getting married for the first time, please prepare also the family register that will explain the reason for becoming the head of family.

**If Embassy cannot validate the above-stated status, no Certificate of Legal Capacity to Contract Marriage will be issued.**

If a Japanese national wishes to contract a marriage with a Filipino national, the Japanese national must first apply for and receive in person, a Certificate of Legal Capacity to Contract Marriage from the Embassy of Japan in the Philippines or Consulate-General of Japan in Cebu or Davao.

The Certificate of Legal Capacity to Contract Marriage will be issued one working day after the date of application. Please make sure to make photocopies of the original certificate as these will be required during the report of marriage.

**Please be reminded that all documents submitted during the application will not be returned.**

## STEP 2: MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATION

After receiving the LEGAL CAPACITY TO CONTRACT MARRIAGE, both parties must proceed to the city hall of the Philippine national's place of residence and apply for a MARRIAGE LICENSE. *Please refer all questions regarding the procedures and requirements necessary to apply for your marriage license directly to the local civil registrar.*

Upon submission of requirements for the MARRIAGE LICENSE, details regarding the application will be posted for 10 consecutive days inside the city hall. The MARRIAGE LICENSE will be released after this 10 day period of publication. Once issued, the MARRIAGE LICENSE is valid in any part of the Philippines for 120 days.

## STEP 3: MARRIAGE CEREMONY AND MARRIAGE REGISTRATION IN THE PHILIPPINES

In the Philippines, the authorized solemnizing officer (priest, judge, etc.) of a marriage ceremony is stipulated in the law. The marriage is consummated once the contracting parties and witnesses sign the marriage certificate and the solemnizing officer attests to it.

The MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE shall be registered to the local city civil registry where the marriage was solemnized by the solemnizing officer within 15 days from the date of solemnization. *Please make sure to get CERTIFIED TRUE COPIES of the registered MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE as these will be needed to report the marriage to Japanese authorities.*

## STEP 4: REPORT OF MARRIAGE IN JAPAN

Japanese nationals are legally obligated to submit a report of marriage to the city hall of their place of residence in Japan, or to the Embassy of Japan or Consulate-General of Japan in Cebu or Davao, WITHIN 3 MONTHS of entering into a contract of marriage with a Philippine national. If the report of marriage is to be submitted directly to the city hall in Japan, please contact the city hall directly regarding the submission requirements and procedures.

<For report of marriage to the Embassy of Japan in the Philippines or Consulate-General of Japan in Cebu or Davao>

Submit the documents mentioned below together with 2 duly accomplished Notification of Marriage form, which is available in the Embassy of Japan, within 3 months from date of marriage. *It will take approximately two months for report of marriage to be recorded in the family register.*

1. Philippine National's VALID PHILIPPINE PASSPORT (If not available, Certified true copy of BIRTH CERTIFICATE)

For VALID PHILIPPINE PASSPORT

(Original and 2 photocopies of bio page and its Japanese translation 2 copies each)

For BIRTH CERTIFICATE (1 original and 1 photocopy and its Japanese translation 2 copies each)

2. Certified true copy of the MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE and its Japanese translation

2 copies each (1 original and 1 photocopy)

3. Photocopy of the CERTIFICATE OF LEGAL CAPACITY TO CONTRACT MARRIAGE 1 photocopy

4. Photocopy of the MARRIAGE LICENSE and MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATION FORM 1 photocopy each

5. Valid Passport / Valid ID of person submitting the marriage report

## BIRTH REGISTRATION AND JAPANESE NATIONALITY

Please be advised that a child born in the Philippines, between a legally married Japanese national and Filipino national, shall be considered a Philippine national by birth. The child shall not be considered a Japanese national until the parent of the child clearly indicates his/her intention to have the child claim his/her Japanese nationality. This must be done **NO LATER THAN THREE MONTHS** after the birth of the child. If not declared within this period, the child shall lose Japanese Nationality.

*\*In accordance with the revision of the Family Registration Law, effective on April 1, 2024, it is no longer necessary, in principle, to submit a copy of the family register for notifications related to family register and nationality. On the other hand, the notification form has fields for the permanent domicile and the name of head of family, thus, please confirm this information prior to visiting the Embassy.*

After marriage, the spouse has to obtain a visa to go to Japan. In case the purpose of travel is to live in Japan as a "Spouse of a Japanese National", a Certificate of Eligibility is needed to apply for a visa. Please inquire directly with the Japanese Regional Immigration Bureau regarding the procedure for acquiring a Certificate of Eligibility.