



**OFFICE OF THE STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE
501st COMBAT SUPPORT WING
RAF ALCONBURY / RAF CROUGHTON, UK**



MARRIAGE (MILITARY TO MILITARY)

Introduction

If you and your partner are **both** military members and want to get married while stationed in the United Kingdom(U.K.), you have three options: **(1) Marriage in the U.K.; (2) Proxy Marriage; and (3) Double Proxy Marriage.**

Marriage in the U.K.

- Documents required: Proof of residency, military orders, and military ID
- You and your partner must both reside in the U.K.
- Make contact with the registration office in the County in which you reside (contact them to ensure that you have all the required documents in order for you to get married). They will be able to give you guidance on any fees involved.
- You must wait 29 days before you can get married after your registration office appointment.
- You must get married in the local area (unless getting married in Scotland).
- If one party is divorced you may have to provide further paperwork and attend an interview to gain authorization to marry.

Proxy Marriage

When an individual is unable to be present for their own wedding, but require their marriage to be documented, proxies may stand in on their behalf to sign the marriage license. Proxy marriages are legally binding and nationally-recognized.

- Where can you get a proxy marriage done?
 - Proxy marriages are only available to military couples in the states of Montana, Kansas, Colorado, Texas and California.
- What if both individuals in the couple are unable to be physically present?
 - If both yourself and your fiancé are unable to be present at your wedding, you can do a “Double Proxy Marriage” – see below.

That being said, while proxy marriages may be convenient and effective, servicemembers should avoid them if possible. Proxy marriages create "doubtful relationships" for finance purposes, and therefore the servicemember may experience delays in receiving an increase in BAH and travel authorization while the case is reviewed. Moreover, survivor benefits hinge on

the validity of the marriage, and tragic results can arise if deficiencies in the marriage are discovered only after the servicemember has died. The same can be said for common law marriages, marriages completed by telephone, and other variations from the normal ceremonial marriage with both parties present.

Double Proxy Marriage

When both individuals in a couple are unable to be physically present for their own wedding, there is the option to do a double proxy marriage. The absent parties must authorize, in writing, a third person to act as proxy. The proxies will then stand in on behalf of the couple to sign the marriage license. Double proxy marriages are currently only available in the state of Montana.

Resources

- https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil/apps/aflaass_public/bin/main.php
- <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/while-abroad/marriage-abroad.html>
- <https://www.gov.uk/marriages-civil-partnerships/give-notice>
- <https://www.military.com/spouse/relationships/proxy-marriage>
- <https://marriagebyproxy.com/proxy-marriage-legality/>

RAF Alconbury and RAF Croughton Legal Office Hours

All Services by Appointment Only (email 501cswja@us.af.mil)

Tuesdays and Thursdays 1000-1200 & 1300-1400

Current as of May 22