

Advice - Getting Married in China – Australian citizens

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Introduction

Obtaining a *Certificate of No Impediment to Marriage* - also known as a '*Statement of No Record*' in some states in Australia - is necessary if you wish to marry a Chinese national, in China.

What do I need to do?

1. Download the *Certificate of no impediment to marriage* application form from <http://www.austemb.org.cn/contacts.htm> or the consulates in Guangzhou or Shanghai.
2. Obtain a 'Statement of Single Status' or equivalent certificate from the marriage registry office in your state of residence in Australia. See the <http://www.austemb.org.cn/contacts.htm> section for Australian marriage registry office contact details.
3. Apply to the Embassy in person or by mail. You must bring or send to us the following documents:

A completed original application form with a signature witnessed by a person in the categories stated on the form. A local Chinese equivalent office holder or a diplomatic official from any Embassy or Consulate is acceptable. If you apply to the Embassy in person, an Embassy consular officer can witness your signature.

A 'Certificate of Single Status' as described above (original or verified true copy);

A Divorce Certificate if applicable (original or verified true copy).

Your current passport (original or verified true copy of the front ID page).

Your partner's Chinese ID/citizen card. (a non-verified photocopy is acceptable)

Payment: Refer to Fees Section for the cost of preparing the certificate. Please note that an extra charge will be added to the fee for requesting the Embassy or Consulates-General to serve as a signature witness on the application form.

4. The Embassy will issue a *Certificate of no impediment to marriage* in both English and Chinese, for you to present to the local marriage office in China.

How long does it take to issue the Certificate?

If you apply in person, the Certificate can be issued while you wait although the process may take longer during busy periods. Postal applications will be handled by normal mail unless you include additional payment for express mail delivery.

MARRIAGE CELEBRATED IN CHINA

There is no Australian law that prohibits an Australian citizen or person domiciled in Australia from marrying a national of the People's Republic of China. A marriage celebrated in the People's Republic of China according to the law of People's Republic of China between a national of the People's Republic of China and an Australian citizen or person domiciled in Australia would normally be recognised as valid in Australia.

Permission to marry in China is at the discretion of the Chinese authorities. Approval must be obtained from the local Public Security Bureau in the Province where the marriage is to be celebrated. In order to obtain the necessary approval the Chinese authorities may require that you first obtain a "Result of Search" Certificate from the Registry Office of Births, Deaths and Marriages in Australia where the Australian citizen used to reside. The "Result of Search" Certificate will have to be certified by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Australia, and then by the Chinese Embassy in Canberra or Chinese Consulates in the various States. Otherwise, the "Result of Search" Certificate may not be accepted by the Chinese authority. Bear in mind that this "Search" is only valid for six months according to the Chinese authority.

CHECK WITH YOUR EMBASSY OR CONSULATE FOR LATEST INFORMATION.