

**OFFICE OF THE STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE  
48<sup>TH</sup> FIGHTER WING, RAF LAKENHEATH, UK  
Building 1082, DSN 226-3553**



**MARRIAGE (MILITARY TO MILITARY)**

If you and your partner are **both** military members and want to get married while stationed in the 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 make sure that you have all the documents that they require in order for you to get married). They will be able to give you guidance on any fees involved
- You must wait 30 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

Here are a few common districts where military personnel reside. Please remember each person has to register in their own district. Also, if you live in a small community they may have their own registration office so please check the website for the county you live in for a detailed listing.

**Thetford Registration Office**  
**Marriages and Civil Partnerships**  
Telephone: 0344 800 8020 Fax: 01842 765996

Opening Times:  
Monday: 10.00am to 12.30pm  
Tuesday: 10.00am to 3.30pm (closed for lunch 12.30-1.00pm)  
Wednesday: 10.00am to 3.30pm (closed for lunch 12.30-1.00pm)  
Thursday: 10.00am to 1.00pm  
Friday: 10.00am to 1.00pm

**Bury St Edmunds Registration Office**  
Marriages and Civil Partnerships  
Telephone: 0345 607 2060  
Fax: 01284 735779  
Email: bury.registrars@suffolk.gov.uk

Opening Times: 9am -4pm Mon-Fri

(on the third Wednesday of each month between 9am and 11am the office is closed for training)  
Ceremonies are held during weekday opening hours and on Saturday until 1.30pm (subject to availability) ceremonies at approved venues and religious registered buildings by arrangement.

### **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.

1. Where can you get a proxy marriage done?
  - Proxy marriages are only available to military couples in the states of Texas, California and Montana.
2. 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.

### **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. Montana will also marry same-sex couples via proxy.

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### **RAF Lakenheath Legal Assistance App**

For a copy of this pamphlet, as well as other helpful pamphlets, please go to the 48 FW Phone App, click on “J.A.G.” at the bottom, and then click on “forms and documents.”

### **RAF Lakenheath Legal Office Hours**

Legal Assistance/Wills (**By appointment only**) Tuesday 0900-1100 and Thursday 1300-1500

Call **0163852-3553 (226-3553)** or email [48fw.ja@us.af.mil](mailto:48fw.ja@us.af.mil)

Powers of Attorney/Notary Service (**No appointment necessary**).

Monday-Wednesday & Friday 0830 – 1530; Thursday 0930-1530