

Marriage of British, Irish and EU Settled or Pre-Settled Status Nationals Guidance for Clergy

1. From 1 July 2021 only British, Irish or those foreign nationals from countries in the European Economic Area (EEA) with EU Settled or Pre-Settled Status are classed as '*relevant nationals*' under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS). Therefore, if both members of the couple are relevant nationals, you may proceed to marry them by banns or common licence, as necessary for their particular set of circumstances.

Initial Approach

2. When clergy are first approached by a couple you should ask to see:

- both their passports,
- if they are not British or Irish nationals, evidence in support of their EU Settled or Pre-Settled Status (see below)
- evidence of their address(es)
- evidence to support their qualifying connection(s)
- evidence in relation to any previous marriages

Settled or Pre-Settled Status

3. EEA nationals were able to apply for EU Settled Status if they had been in the UK for five years or more before 1 July 2021. They may also have been granted EU Pre-Settled Status if they have been in the UK for a shorter period. It is also possible for EEA nationals to have a pending application to the EUSS if their application was submitted before 1 July but has not yet been decided.

4. The bride and/or groom will need to prove their EUSS status to you. To do this they need to provide you with a 'share code' which they can obtain from the following Government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status>

5. They should let you have the 'share code' so that you can log on to the following Government website to check their details:

<https://www.gov.uk/check-immigration-status>

6. A PDF document will be produced which you should keep with their application to prove you verified their EUSS status.

7. Only once you have seen proof of their EU Settled or Pre-Settled Status can you read their Banns or arrange for them to obtain a Common Licence.

8. If an EEA national has a pending application which was submitted before 1 July, they will have received a '*Certificate of Application*' from the Home Office. You should ask to see this before proceeding with Banns or a Common Licence application. The Certificate can be digital or hard copy but if you have any concerns about the documentation, please be in touch with Sara Leader.

Oxford Diocesan Registry



9. Clergy will need to see confirmation of EU Settled or Pre-Settled Status before you read either home or away Banns. It is, therefore, vital to see this evidence as early as possible when couples contact you.

Foreign Nationals without EU Settled or Pre-Settled Status

10. If one or both parties to the proposed marriage are not relevant nationals (i.e. they are not British, Irish or do not have settled or pre-settled status under EUSS), the couple will need to be married by Superintendent Registrar's Marriage Schedule. ***Please note banns and common licences are no longer lawful preliminaries for marriages involving foreign nationals without EU settled or pre-settled status.***

11. Please see the Guidance posted in the Legal Section of the Diocesan Website entitled 'Marriage of Foreign Nationals without EU Settled or Pre-Settled Status' (<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/parish-support/advice/diocesan-registry/diocesan-registry.php>).

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