



## How to apply for a correction to a marriage registration

### 1. General Information

A correction can only be made when the information in the marriage register is wrong. The registration cannot be corrected to show new information if circumstances change after the marriage.

To establish if the error is in the original entry and not just on the certificate you will need to contact either:

- The register office who conducted your civil marriage, or
- The incumbent, authorised person or registering officer who registered your religious marriage.

### 2. How do I apply for a correction?

If the error is in the register and your marriage was according to the rites and ceremonies of the Church of England or Church of Wales, please contact the church where your marriage took place for further help. If not, you will need to complete an application form and send it to the General Register Office (GRO).

### 3. Where can I get an application form?

- by downloading it from [www.gov.uk/correct-marriage-registration/how-to-apply](http://www.gov.uk/correct-marriage-registration/how-to-apply)
- your local register office may be able to supply you with one
- by calling GRO on **0300 123 1837**

### 4. Who can apply for a correction?

Either party to the marriage can apply, however both parties will need to know about the correction. If both parties are no longer alive we will not be able to correct the registration.

### 5. What does a correction look like?

The original information will always be shown as it was first given, but a note will be written against the registration. This will explain what the correct information should be and the date when the correction was made. All certificates issued afterwards will include the note in the margin.

### 6. Do I need to prove that the marriage certificate is wrong?

You will need to show that the information originally given at the time of your marriage was wrong. You will have to provide a copy of the marriage certificate **and** produce document(s) showing the correct information. These document(s) should be valid or dated around the date of the marriage.

It is not possible to list every example of what will be acceptable but it should be an official document which shows the correct information. Examples will include:

- passport
- identity card
- photocard driving licence
- letter from a government department
- bank/building society statement
- utility bill
- credit card statement
- letter from a hospital/doctor

If you cannot send us any proof, then normally a correction will not be possible. Further advice can be obtained by calling **0300 123 1837**

## 7. Do I need to send in original documents?

You should only send in documents which have been certified by a professional or reputable person as a true copy of the original. A list giving examples of suitable persons can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/countersigning-passport-applications>

Acceptable certifiers are listed in '**Occupations**'.

The person should not be related by birth or marriage to the applicant(s), be in a personal relationship with the applicant(s) or live at the same address. The person certifying documents should:

- include the words - "*Certified to be a true copy of the original seen by me*"
- sign
- print their name
- confirm their occupation
- add their address and telephone number

GRO reserves the right to ask you to submit the original document if needed.

GRO will confidentially destroy all certified copies submitted here **unless** we are asked to return them.

## 8. Do I have to be there when the registration is corrected?

A correction to a marriage entry has to be witnessed. This will be by either:

- both parties to the marriage, or
- two witnesses nominated by the parties to the marriage.

The witnesses do not need to have been at the marriage but do need to be aware of the information being corrected.

## 9. How long will it take for my entry to be corrected?

If there are no problems with your application, you can expect the paperwork authorising the correction to be sent out within **10 working days**. If GRO need more information or you need to send in more paperwork, each further reply may take up to **20 working days**.

However, you should be aware that in exceptional circumstances, it may not always be possible to meet these targets.

If a correction is authorised, you and the register holder will then need to agree a suitable time for the correction to be made.

## 10. Where can I find out more?

You can either contact the religious building or register office in the area where the marriage took place. They will be happy to explain what you need to do.

Alternatively, you can telephone GRO who will advise you on your individual circumstances and how to apply for a correction.

Our contact details are:

**Address:** GRO Casework Team, PO Box 476, Southport, PR8 2WJ

**Phone:** 0300 123 1837

**E-mail:** [GROcasework@gro.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:GROcasework@gro.gsi.gov.uk)

**Internet:** Go to [www.gov.uk/correct-marriage-registration](http://www.gov.uk/correct-marriage-registration) to find forms for downloading.

The information contained in this leaflet is based on the **Marriage Act 1949** but is not a full statement of the law

*For the purpose of detecting and preventing crime, information relating to an application may be shared and verified with other government departments or law enforcement agencies*