

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – NOTARIAL SERVICES

## Registration of Vital Events

### REPORT OF BIRTH

**Q: The child is born in Taiwan to married parents. How should the child’s name appear in his/her Report of Birth?**

A: Following the naming convention in the Philippines, the child’s name should appear as follows:

Surname	:	Father’s Surname
Given Name	:	Child’s Given Name
Middle Name	:	Mother’s Maiden Surname

**Q: My partner and I are both single and we have a child born out-of-wedlock in Taiwan. We intend to have our child carry both our surnames in the child’s Report of Birth. Is this possible even if we are not married?**

A: Yes, the child can use the mother’s maiden name as his/her middle name and the father’s surname as the child’s surname provided that the father executes an Affidavit of Admission of Paternity (AAP) and the mother allows the use of the father’s surname by executing an Affidavit to Use the Surname of the Father (AUSF). The child’s name shall then appear as follows:

Surname	:	Father’s Surname
Given Name	:	Child’s Given Name
Middle Name	:	Mother’s Maiden Surname

**Q: My partner and I, both single, want our child to carry our surnames. How should the child’s name appear on the birth certificate to be issued by a Taiwan Hospital?**

A: If possible, the birth certificate from the Taiwan hospital should state the father’s surname, the child’s given name, and the mother’s maiden surname. However, in most cases, Taiwan hospitals do not allow the child to be registered under the father’s surname if the parents are not married. In this case, the birth certificate from the Taiwan hospital should state the child’s given name and the mother’s maiden surname only.

For example, if the child’s name is Marie and the mother’s maiden name is Maria Abad dela Cruz, the name of the child as reflected on the birth certificate from the Taiwan hospital should be “Marie dela Cruz” or “Dela Cruz, Marie” and should excluded the mother’s middle name.

The child can still use the surname of the father in the Report of Birth as long as the father executes an Affidavit of Admission of Paternity (AAP) and the mother adheres to the same by executing an Affidavit to Use the Surname of the Father (AUSF). Our office shall assist the parents in the execution of the AAP and the AUSF.

**Q: I am a single mother and the father does not intend to acknowledge our child. Can my child use my middle name and my surname?**

A: No. The child can only use your surname as his/her surname; s/he cannot use your middle name as his/her middle name. Thus in the Birth Certificate issued by the Taiwan hospital and the Report of Birth, your child’s name should appear as follows:

Surname	:	Mother's Maiden Surname
Given Name	:	Child's Given Name
Middle Name	:	[blank]

**Q: The child is born out-of-wedlock to a single mother and to a father who is married to someone else. Can the child bear the surname of the father?**

A: No. The child cannot bear the surname of the father in the Report of Birth if the father is married to someone else.

**Q: The child is born out-of-wedlock to a single mother and to a father who is married to someone else. Upon the request of the child's parents, the Taiwan hospital registered the child using the father's surname. Can the child use the father's surname in the Report of Birth?**

A: No. The child cannot bear the surname of the father in the Report of Birth even if the father's surname is reflected on the birth certificate issued by the Taiwan hospital. To avoid any delay in the processing of the Report of Birth, the parents should have the birth certificate revised by the Taiwan hospital and the same should only state the given name of the child and the surname of his/her mother.

**Q: One of the requirements for Report of Birth is to submit five (5) copies of the child's Birth Certificate as issued by the Taiwan hospital. Should all five (5) copies of the Birth Certificate be original?**

A: No. Not all five (5) copies of the child's Birth Certificate need to be original. However, all copies of the birth certificate must be originally notarized by a Taiwan Notary Public and authenticated by Taiwan's Bureau of Consular Affairs (BOCA, MOFA).

**Q: One of the child's parents is Taiwanese and the birth record of the child is duly registered with the relevant Taiwan Household Registration Office. Can the birth record of the child as it appears on the English version of the Taiwan Household Registration Transcript be submitted in lieu of the birth certificate issued by the Taiwan hospital?**

A: Yes. The birth record of the child as it appears on the English version of the Taiwan Household Registration Transcript may be submitted in lieu of the birth certificate issued by the Taiwan hospital. Five (5) copies of the English version of the transcript should be originally notarized by a Taiwan Notary Public and authenticated by the Bureau of Consular Affairs (BOCA, MOFA).

**Q: How long will it take before I can apply with the Philippine Statistics Authority (formerly, National Statistics Office) for the issuance of a certified true copy of the Report of Birth?**

A: It will take approximately six (6) to eight (8) months from the time the Report of Birth is issued by MECO before a certified true copy may be applied for with the PSA. After the ROB is issued by MECO, copies of the same will be transmitted to the Department of Foreign Affairs for their review and for onward transmittal to the PSA.

**Q: I am a Filipino and my child is born in Taiwan, can I apply for a Philippine passport for my child?**

A: Yes, however the child's birth must first be registered with the Manila Economic and Cultural Office in Taiwan. After the Report of Birth has been duly issued to the parents of the child, the parents can

consequently apply for the child's Philippine passport and submit the Report of Birth as one of the requirements.

**Q: I am a Filipino and my spouse is a Taiwan national. Does our child have dual nationality?**

A: Yes. A child born to parents with different nationalities (*i.e.* one parent is Filipino while the other is Taiwanese) is both a Filipino and a Taiwan national.

**Q: After the Report of Birth, can I use the Report of Birth from MECO to apply for a Philippine passport for my child?**

A: Yes, provided that you apply with MECO for a Philippine passport on behalf of your child within three (3) months from the registration of the Report of Birth. After three (3) months, a PSA-issued certified true copy of the Report of Birth shall be required.

**Q: How much will I spend for the Report of Birth of my child?**

A: Processing fees shall depend on the circumstances of the child. Please see our schedule of fees [here](#) to approximate the costs.

**Q: I noticed that there are errors in my child's Report of Birth, can I have these errors corrected in MECO?**

A: No. MECO is not authorized to make any changes in the Report of Birth, Report of Marriage, and Report of Death once the report has been registered with the Philippine Statistics Authority. The Philippine Consulate General in Xiamen, China is the proper venue to have the errors corrected.

**Q: What errors can be corrected by the Philippine Consulate General in Xiamen, China?**

A: Only typographical or clerical errors, or mistakes due to human error, on the (a) name or nickname, (b) the birth day and month, or (c) the sex of the registrant, can be corrected. These errors can be changed provided that the same are obvious.

## **REPORT OF MARRIAGE**

**Q: Can two (2) Filipinos get married in Taiwan?**

A: Yes. The Taiwan Household Registration Office now accepts applications from foreign nationals, including Filipinos, to get married in Taiwan. After registering the marriage with the Taiwan Household Registration Office, the couple should report their marriage to the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (MECO) in Taiwan.

**Q: What is the purpose of reporting the marriage of a Filipino in Taiwan to the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (MECO)?**

A: Reporting the marriage of a Filipino in Taiwan is essential in having the marriage recognized in the Philippines. The Report of Marriage will become a part of public records and the parties thereto shall be considered as married under the laws of the Philippines.

**Q: I am a Filipino and I got married to a foreign national in Taiwan. Do I also need to report my marriage to MECO?**

A: Yes. All vital events of a Filipino in Taiwan, including contracting a marriage either to another Filipino or a foreign national, should be reported to MECO for the marriage to be recognized under the laws of the Philippines.

**Q: I am a widow/widower and I remarried. What additional documents should I bring for my Report of Marriage?**

A: Filipino widows and widowers who remarried in Taiwan must bring the following:  
(a) a certified true copy of the Marriage Certificate between the widow/er and the deceased spouse as issued by the Philippines Statistics Authority (PSA) and five (5) photocopies thereof; and  
(b) a certified true copy of the Death Certificate of the deceased spouse as issued by the Philippine Statistics Authority and five (5) photocopies of the same.

**Q: My previous marriage has been legally annulled in the Philippines and I remarried. What additional documents should I bring for my Report of Marriage?**

A: Filipinos who had their marriage legally annulled in the Philippines and have remarried in Taiwan must bring the certified true copy from the PSA of the Marriage Certificate or Report of Marriage from his or her previous marriage. This should reflect the relevant annotation on the declaration of nullity by a Philippine court or the recognition of the foreign divorce decree. Five (5) photocopies of this document should also be submitted to MECO.

**Q: My marriage with my former Taiwanese spouse has gone through divorce proceedings and I am now legally divorced in Taiwan. I intend to marry again and have the marriage reported through MECO. What additional documents should I bring for my Report of Marriage?**

A: Apart from the standard requirements for Report of Marriage, the Filipino must bring the certified true copy from the PSA of the Marriage Certificate or Report of Marriage from his or her previous marriage. This should reflect the relevant annotation on the recognition by a Philippine court of the foreign divorce decree. Five (5) photocopies of this document should also be submitted to MECO.

**Q: My marriage with my former Taiwanese spouse has gone through divorce proceedings and I am now legally divorced in Taiwan. I married a second time in Taiwan but I have not commenced proceedings in the Philippines for the recognition of the foreign divorce decree. Can I report my second marriage through MECO?**

A: No. The second marriage may only be reported after a Philippine court has recognized the foreign divorce decree through legal proceedings in the Philippines.

**Q: How long will it take before I can apply with the Philippine Statistics Authority (formerly, National Statistics Office) for the issuance of a certified true copy of the Report of Marriage?**

A: It will take approximately six (6) to eight (8) months from the time the Report of Marriage is issued by MECO before a certified true copy may be applied for with the PSA. After the ROM is issued by MECO, copies of the same will be transmitted to the Department of Foreign Affairs for their review and for onward transmittal to the PSA.

**Q: How much will I spend for our Report of Marriage?**

A: Processing fees shall depend on the circumstances of the couple. Please see our schedule of fees [here](#) to approximate the costs.

**Q: I noticed that there are errors in our Report of Marriage, can I have these errors corrected in MECO?**

A: No. MECO is not authorized to make any changes in the Report of Birth, Report of Marriage, and Report of Death once the report has been registered with the Philippine Statistics Authority. The Philippine Consulate General in Xiamen, China is the proper venue to have the errors corrected.

**Q: What errors can be corrected by the Philippine Consulate General in Xiamen, China?**

A: Only typographical or clerical errors, or mistakes due to human error, on the (a) name or nickname, (b) the birth day and month, or (c) the sex of the registrant, can be corrected. These errors can be changed provided that the same are obvious.

## REPORT OF DEATH

**Q: My family member, a Taiwanese, was born in the Philippines. Can his/her death be reported to the Philippines by submitting a Report of Death to MECO?**

A: No. Only vital events of Filipinos in Taiwan may be reported to MECO. The death of a foreign national cannot be the subject of a Report of Death.

**Q: Should the requirements for Report of Death be written in English?**

A: Yes. The Certificate of Death issued in Taiwan, the Mortuary/Embalmer's Certificate, the Cremation Permit, and the Certificate from the Taiwan Centers for Disease Control should all be written in English as these documents will be forwarded to and reviewed by the Philippine agencies.

**Q: How long will it take before a Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)-issued Report of Death becomes available?**

A: It will take approximately six (6) to eight (8) months from the time the Report of Marriage is issued by MECO before a certified true copy may be applied for with the PSA. After the ROM is issued by MECO, copies of the same will be transmitted to the Department of Foreign Affairs for their review and for onward transmittal to the PSA.

**Q: I noticed that there are errors in my family member's Report of Death, can I have these errors corrected in MECO?**

A: No. MECO is not authorized to make any changes in the Report of Birth, Report of Marriage, and Report of Death once the report has been registered with the Philippine Statistics Authority. The Philippine Consulate General in Xiamen, China is the proper venue to have the errors corrected.

**Q: What errors can be corrected by the Philippine Consulate General in Xiamen, China?**

A: Only typographical or clerical errors, or mistakes due to human error, on the (a) name or nickname, (b) the birth day and month, or (c) the sex of the registrant, can be corrected. These errors can be changed provided that the same are obvious.