

# Getting a legal marriage in Thailand:

Arranging legally recognized marriages in Thailand can be quite an involved process, but it is entirely possible. A quick explanation of the process involved is as follows:

- The Bride & Groom should make contact and correspond with their country's Embassy in Thailand. Most Embassy websites have all the detailed information you will need with regards to getting your marriage certified here in Thailand.
- Before coming to Koh Samui you must first visit your country's Embassy in Bangkok and completes the appropriate paperwork.
- These documents then need to be translated into Thai at a certified translator. Your Embassy can assist you here.
- You then must visit the Thai Government "Foreign Affairs Office" to get the translations approved and stamped.
- You are then ready to come down to Koh Samui. Here, we will submit your papers to the local Ampur (Legal Witness/Registrar) and he will prepare your documents and bring them to the ceremony for your signature. Two business days notice is required.
- Finally, you will need to make one more trip to the translators (in Thailand or back home) to get the Thai certificates translated into your native tongue and make a visit to your local registry office to ensure your legal Thai marriage is recognized in your country of residence. This process has to be done personally (both of you) in Bangkok and you should allow 5 days, depending on your country of residence and nationality.

Basically all you are doing is proving that there is no legal reason why you cannot be married in Thailand. Details of previous marriages and divorces will be required.

You can complete all legalities in Bangkok and arrive on Samui "married" or you can delay the signing of the marriage certificate until your actual wedding ceremony on Samui. If they decide on the latter, the registrar will be present at your wedding however **there will be a charge of THB 6,500 net.**