

MARRIAGE TO A FOREIGNER



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Can a Maldivian marry a foreigner?

Yes. However, there are conditions that must be met. A Maldivian can only marry a foreigner if:

- (a) The man and woman meet all the conditions for a valid marriage under Islamic Shariah; and
- (b) Where the man is the foreigner, he is financially stable and is able to support the expenses for his future family.

If the marriage contracted is between a man of foreign nationality and a Maldivian woman, the man must sign a declaration accepting all obligations on him under the Family Act and the Regulations under it. The declaration must be signed before contracting to marry. The marriage will then be registered in accordance to the provisions of the Family Act.

Is the divorce process the same for Maldivians married to foreigners?

Yes, the process is the same and must be done in accordance to the Family Act. However, with regards to maintenance, where a Maldivian husband divorces his wife who is a foreign national, he must arrange for her to travel to her country of origin and bear all costs related to that, and maintenance required under the law.