

**Migration Review Tribunal
AUSTRALIA**

MRT RESEARCH RESPONSE

Research Response Number: CHN35505
Country: China
Date: 06 October 2009

Keywords: China – Marriage – Divorce – Rules – Procedures – Certificates – Shanghai

Questions

Please advise what is the normal form and content of a marriage and a divorce certificate in Shanghai?

RESPONSE

Please advise what is the normal form and content of a marriage and a divorce certificate in Shanghai?

Executive Summary

The Shanghai Municipal Government website confirms that in cases of both marriage and divorce, separate copies of marriage and divorce certificates are issued to both parties in Shanghai ('Procedures of Shanghai Municipality on the Administration of Marriage Registration', Shanghai Municipal Government website <http://www.shanghai.gov.cn/shanghai/node17256/node17413/node17427/userobject6ai917.html> – Accessed 2 October 2009 – Attachment 8).

Current Chinese marriage and divorce certificates appear to be similar in both appearance and colour, distinguished on the outside only by the colour of the lettering according to one source ('An Overview on Marriage Certificate during different ages in China' 2009, *China Daily* website <http://bbs.chinadaily.com.cn/viewthread.php?tid=629998> – Accessed 5 October 2009 – Attachment 1). According to a 2005 article in the *China Daily*, divorce certificates in Shanghai include the Chinese character for double-happiness as a watermark on the inside right hand page ('75 Shanghai couples end marriage every day' 2005, *The China Daily* website, 26 August http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/english/doc/2005-08/26/content_472554.htm – Accessed 01 October 2009 – Attachment 2).

The Shanghai Municipal Government marriage procedures include the requirement that both parties submit documents to the 'marriage registration administrative organ' proving their current single status. Such proof includes testimonials from their local councils (Hukou) and, the case of previously married individuals, divorce certificates. Upon the issuance of marriage certificates, any previous divorce certificates will be amended to include the new

marital status ('Procedures of Shanghai Municipality on the Administration of Marriage Registration', Shanghai Municipal Government Website <http://www.shanghai.gov.cn/shanghai/node17256/node17413/node17427/userobject6ai917.html> – Accessed 2 October 2009 – Attachment 8).

Current procedures for divorce in Shanghai require that both parties submit their marriage certificates when applying for divorce. These marriage certificates will be amended by 'stamp or signature' to indicate the new marital status, in addition to the issuance of divorce certificates ('Procedures of Shanghai Municipality on the Administration of Marriage Registration', Shanghai Municipal Government Website <http://www.shanghai.gov.cn/shanghai/node17256/node17413/node17427/userobject6ai917.html> – Accessed 2 October 2009 – Attachment 8).

Historically, regional variation in legal documents in China has been significant and therefore notary certificates are commonly employed in China as testimony to legal status or entitlement according to an independent research website sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. This warns that although notary officers in China are only allowed to issue notary certificates once they are convinced that applicant's claims are true, evidence submitted to support claims are highly susceptible to fraud in China and therefore notary certificates should not be considered definitive, primary evidence ('China Notarial Records' 2008, Wiki Family Search website https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/China_Notarial_Records#Divorce_Decrees – Accessed 5 October 2009 – Attachment 6). Nevertheless, the Australian Embassy in China website does state that it will accept notary certificates from Public Notary Officials in China as part of documents submitted to the Embassy to demonstrate relationship status ('Additional Information - Partner Migration' (undated), Australian Embassy in China website <http://www.china.embassy.gov.au/bjng/DIMA090401.html> – Accessed 18 August 2009 – Attachment 7).

Any changes to marital and residential status must be notified to the local Hukou police (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2005, *China: Reforms of the Household Registration System (Hukou) (1998-2004)*, February, Section 2 & 7.1 – Attachment 5).

This response is structured as follows:

- [Shanghai Divorce Certificates](#)
- [Divorce Procedures in Shanghai](#)
- [Notary Certificates in China](#)
- [Marriage Procedures in Shanghai](#)
-

Shanghai Divorce Certificates

Images and descriptions of Shanghainese marriage and divorce certificates are not available from either the Shanghai Municipal Government website or from the Chinese Government's Official Web Portal. The following description and images of Chinese marriage and divorce certificates were posted by 'Robert Cheng' in March 2009 on a community chat room hosted by the *China Daily* website. The *China Daily* is a Chinese state-owned English language newspaper.

The images below indicate that both current Chinese marriage and divorce certificates are contained in booklets almost identical in appearance and colour (purple-red), distinguished primarily by the colour of the lettering; current Chinese divorce certificates have silver

characters/lettering, while marriage certificates' lettering is in gold, according to Mr Cheng. The source also states that 'in the past' divorce certificates were either blue (pictured) or green ('An Overview on Marriage Certificate during different ages in China' 2009, *China Daily* website <http://bbs.chinadaily.com.cn/viewthread.php?tid=629998> – Accessed 5 October 2009 – Attachment 1). The older, blue divorce certificate in the photo also includes the word 'Lihunzheng' on the cover, which translates as 'divorce certificate'. This does not appear to be on the cover of more recent certificates:

Now the cover of marriage certificate (with golden characters) and divorce certificate (with silvered characters) are purple-red. Several years ago cover color of divorce certificate is green or blue...

upper left: current marriage certificate upper right: current divorce certificate



A 2005 article published by *The China Daily* entitled '75 Shanghai couples end marriage every day' includes an image described in the caption as a 'Shanghai divorce certificate'. The caption states that "Shanghai divorce certificate bears traditional Chinese character of double happiness" ('75 Shanghai couples end marriage every day' 2005, *The China Daily* website, 26 August http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/english/doc/2005-08/26/content_472554.htm – Accessed 01 October 2009 – Attachment 2). The double happiness character can be seen in the image as a watermark on the right-hand side:



Shanghai divorce certificate bears traditional Chinese character of double happiness.

Divorce Procedures in Shanghai

The following information is extracted from Chapter Four of the *Procedures of Shanghai Municipality on the Administration of Marriage Registration* [Promulgated by the Shanghai Municipal People's Government on September 8, 1995; Revised in accordance with the Decision of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government of October 29, 1999 on the Revision of the Procedures of Shanghai Municipality on the Administration of Marriage Registration and promulgated anew', entitled 'Divorce Registration]. The following extract pertains to procedures in cases of 'voluntary divorce', employed when both parties agree to a divorce and the conditions of the divorce. Subsequently, such divorce procedures do not require the involvement of a court and members of the judiciary. The Procedures include: written divorce agreements needs to be signed and submitted listing the division of property, finances (including any debts) and children, as well as stating that the divorce is mutually agreed to (Article 24); divorcing couple must "go together to the marriage registration administrative organ to get the divorce certificate" within 30 days of lodging their application (Article 27); "Failure to go and get the certificate within the prescribed time limit shall be regarded as voluntary withdrawal of divorce registration application, except when it is due to force majeure" (Article 27); and once divorce certificates are issued the "marriage registration administrative organs shall cancel testimonials to their legitimate conjugal relation at the same time the parties get the divorce certificate" (Article 27):

Chapter IV Divorce Registration

Article 21 Application for Divorce Registration

In case the parties to a marriage who want to get divorced in this Municipality shall both go together in person to a marriage registration administrative organ, in whose locality either one of the parties has registered permanent residence, to go through the application formalities for divorce registration.

Article 22 Papers to Be Presented on Application for Divorce Registration

Applicants for divorce registration shall present the following testimonials and certificates:

1. Certificate of registered permanent residence;
2. Resident's identification card;
3. Letter of introduction from their unit or from the neighbourhood villagers' committee where one's permanent residence is registered;
4. Testimonials to legitimate conjugal relation marriage certificate (testimonial to conjugal relation or notarial certificate to conjugal relation; similarly hereinafter); and
5. Voluntary divorce agreement.

...Article 24 Contents of Voluntary Divorce Agreement

A voluntary divorce agreement shall clearly indicate the intent of both parties to divorce of their own free will and the agreements on the bringing up of their children, the financial aid to the party who has difficulty making a living, the disposal of property, the repayment of debts and the arrangement for housing, etc .

...Article 27 Getting the Certificate

Both parties to a marriage applying for divorce registration shall, within 30 days upon receiving notice to get the divorce certificate, go together to the marriage registration administrative organ to get the divorce certificate and shall not entrust one party or other persons to get the certificate on their behalf. Failure to go and get the certificate within the prescribed time limit shall be regarded as voluntary withdrawal of divorce registration application, except when it is due to force majeure.

Upon receipt of the divorce certificate, the conjugal relation between the applicants for divorce registration is dissolved. Marriage registration administrative organs shall cancel testimonials to their legitimate conjugal relation at the same time the parties get the divorce certificate (*Procedures of Shanghai Municipality on the Administration of Marriage Registration* [Promulgated by the Shanghai Municipal People's Government on September 8, 1995; Revised in accordance with the Decision of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government of October 29, 1999 on the Revision of the Procedures of Shanghai Municipality on the Administration of Marriage Registration and promulgated anew], Shanghai Municipal Government website

<http://www.shanghai.gov.cn/shanghai/node17256/node17413/node17427/userobject6ai917.html> – Accessed 2 October 2009 – Attachment 3).

The China Family Law Research Centre, a Shanghai-based law firm specialising in marriage and divorce between Chinese citizens and foreign nationals provides additional information on the 'Divorce by Agreement' procedures on its website. According to the website, both parties must retain a copy of the written divorce agreement and submit a third copy to the registration office. Both parties are required to submit both copies of their original marriage certificates, which will be stamped or signed 'invalid' once the divorce has been processed. Once the original marriage certificates have been invalidated, the divorce certificates will be issued:

In accordance with the Marriage Registration Regulation and relevant laws, the divorcer shall go to the marriage registration office at the civil affairs bureau at one party's habitual residence, with relevant certificates and the divorce agreement. The procedures for divorce registry at the civil affairs bureau are:

1. Certificates presentation. Both parties have to submit the related credentials and materials.

2. The officials in the marriage registration office have the obligations to tell the divorcees the conditions of divorce registration according to the Marriage Law of the People's Republic of China. Also they have to make sure whether the divorcees really want to get divorced and whether they have known the divorce agreement clearly and thoroughly.
3. Filling in Petition for divorce registration and both parties should fill this table while the officials are at spot
4. **Both parties should sign the divorce agreement by themselves and each of them maintains a copy while with a third copy in the registration office.**
5. Generally speaking, the divorce agreement has to be prepared before their divorce registration. In Shanghai, some local matrimonial registries may require the divorcers submitting the divorce agreement written in person, the printed agreement excluded, while some local registries may require the divorcers saving the file of divorce agreement on the soft disk submitted with the paper format. Hence, before the registration for divorce, it is better to inquire the local matrimonial registry, in order to clearly make sure what kinds of materials are required, to avoid unnecessary time and energy.
6. **The officials at the registration office have to check the authenticity of the materials divorcers submitted and the parties fulfilling the conditions will gain the divorce certificate.**
7. The officials have to issue the divorce certificate when both parties are at spot and check the following items:
 - Both parties' names, their dates of birth and their opinions on divorce
 - **Notify both parties of the legal relationship between them, their duties concerning child custody and the solution of divorced disputes after the divorce certificate issued.**
 - Attest both parties sign their names on the table of divorce examination and the party has to leave his or her fingerprint on the table when they don't know how to write.
 - **Seal the marriage certificates with a signature meaning invalid and return the sealed marriage certificates to both parties.**
 - **Issue the divorce certificates and give them to both parties. Then both parties have to sign on the acceptance of service** ('Divorce by Agreement – What are the procedures? 2009', China Family Law Research Centre website <http://www.familylaw.com.cn/cases/06.htm> – Accessed 1 October 2009 – Attachment 4).

A 2003 article in the People's Daily states that as of 1 October 2003 divorce certificates in China are to be issued as soon as all documents have been confirmed, rather than the previous thirty days. Furthermore, divorcing couples will no longer require personal references:

Divorce certificates issued at once

After the new regulations come into force, the marriage registration office, after clearly establishing that the divorce is desired by both parties and that appropriate arrangements have been made for the care of any child and the disposition of property and any debts, shall issue the divorce certificates without delay. Couples don't have to wait for one month of examination. This move greatly simplifies the procedure for divorce.

No reference for divorce

If husband and wife both desire to divorce, they won't have to endure the embarrassment at reference for divorce from other people. According to the Regulation on Marriage Registration that is going to take effect, couples who apply for divorce registration can go in person to the marriage registration authorities at the place of permanent residence of either party and submit the following certificates: "Hukou" document; Identity card; Marriage Certificate; And a divorce agreement jointly signed by both parties ('Chinese marriage and divorce registration to be easier and more convenient' 2003, *People's Daily*, 22 August

http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/200308/22/eng20030822_1228_66.shtml – Accessed 25 August 2003 – Attachment 10).

As noted in RRT Research and Information 2009, Research Response CHN35187, “any change in family status and relocation” needs to be reported to the *hukou* police (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2005, *China: Reforms of the Household Registration System (Hukou) (1998-2004)*, February, Section 2 & 7.1 – Attachment 5).

Notary Certificates in China

The following information on notary certificates in China comes from Wiki Family Search, part of the Wiki Research website, sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. According to the source, Chinese notaries must only issue notary certificates once they conclude that an applicant’s ‘claims are true’. However, the source states that a notary’s conclusions can be based on various primary and secondary sources of evidence submitted to the notary by the applicant, including ‘testimony’. Given the highly variable nature of documents from different regions in China, the Wiki Family Search source argues that such documents are “extremely susceptible to fraud and manipulation” and that notary certificates “rarely cite the basis for their issuance”. Thus, the source suggests, ‘a certificate in itself may not be adequate evidence of the facts claimed, and is best used in conjunction with primary and contemporaneous secondary evidence’:

All Chinese documentation to be used abroad is processed through the notary offices and issued in the form of notarial certificates. Notarial offices are located in all major Chinese cities and in rural county seats. These offices are part of the Ministry of Justice structure, but are separate from the people's court system.

Notaries in China do not perform the same functions as their American counterparts. Chinese notaries affix their signatures and office seal to certificates that attest to the probity of claims made by the applicants. **By regulation, notaries are empowered to issue certificates only after they conclude that the applicant's claims are true. Notarial certificates of birth, death, marriage, divorce, no criminal record, and pre-1981 adoptions are, at best, secondary evidence of the events they purport to document. Although these certificates are secondary evidence, they are used because primary evidence is not standardized, is easily forged, and difficult to evaluate.** Notarial certificates are easier to interpret than primary evidence and theoretically represent an expert judgment on the part of the notarial official as to the facts documented.

The certificates can be based upon primary evidence, secondary evidence, testimony of the applicant or other parties, or investigation by the notary. For most notarial certificates of birth or adoption, the primary underlying documentation is the household register (HHR), which appears to be extremely susceptible to fraud and manipulation, especially if the holder of the HHR lives outside of a major metropolitan area. **Notarial certificates rarely cite the basis for their issuance.**

Therefore, a certificate in itself may not be adequate evidence of the facts claimed, and is best used in conjunction with primary and contemporaneous secondary evidence: Old land deeds and old family registers; letters or money receipts; family records from countries that have reliable public documents; school and medical records. In relationship cases, especially where the petitioner left China years before, the best evidence of relationship, or lack of it, would be the Hong Kong Certificate of Registered Particulars (for petitioners who lived in Hong Kong), or the petitioner's immigration and/or naturalization file.

... Divorce decree records are available. **Notarial offices will issue notarial divorce certificates based upon extant records to confirm either a court-decreed or uncontested divorce. In an uncontested divorce, a couple can obtain a divorce certificate from the marriage registration office in the neighborhood where they reside.** In a contested divorce, both parties will receive a copy of the formal divorce decree from the court at the time the divorce is approved. **If the original decree is lost, the same court will often issue a duplicate, but these various decrees or certificates should not be accepted in lieu of the notarial certificates** ('China Notarial Records' 2008, Wiki Family Search website https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/China_Notarial_Records#Divorce_Decrees – Accessed 5 October 2009 – Attachment 6).

The Australian Embassy in China website states that it only accepts notarised/certified copies of official documents rather, including notary certificates issued by Public Notary Offices in China:

When organising your documents for your application, please note that we only accept notarised/ certified copies of official documents. In Australia, copies must be certified by a Justice of the Peace, a Registered Migration Agent or a person before whom a Statutory Declaration can be made. In China, copies can be notarised by a Public Notary Office ('Additional Information - Partner Migration' (undated), Australian Embassy in China website <http://www.china.embassy.gov.au/bjng/DIMA090401.html> – Accessed 18 August 2009 – Attachment 7).

A Shanghai application form for 'Public Notary of Marriage (Divorce)' is attached ('Application for Public Notary of Marriage [Divorce] - Sample in Shanghai' 2005, Shanghai Municipal Government website http://www.shanghai.gov.cn/bgxz/260_1_00002.pdf – Accessed 5 October – Attachment 8).

Marriage Procedures in Shanghai

The following information is sourced from the *Procedures of Shanghai Municipality on the Administration of Marriage Registration* [Promulgated by the Shanghai Municipal People's Government on September 8, 1995; Revised in accordance with the Decision of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government of October 29, 1999 on the Revision of the Procedures of Shanghai Municipality on the Administration of Marriage Registration and promulgated anew]. According to the Procedures, couples must apply for a marriage certificate in the locality where at least one of the parties is registered as a resident. An important procedure in this process is the requirement that both parties prove that neither one of them is currently married and the submission of health certificates. The Procedures also state that previously married individuals must submit their divorce certificates, which will be annotated with "the date of registration for remarriage and the name of the present spouse shall be noted down on his/her divorce certificate and a special seal of marriage registration be affixed to it" before being returned:

Chapter III Marriage Registration

Article 10 Application for Marriage Registration

Interested parties who want to get married in this Municipality shall both go together in person to a marriage registration administrative organ of the locality, **where either one of the parties has registered permanent residence, to go through the application formalities for marriage registration.**

Article 11 Papers to Be Presented on Application

Applicants for marriage registration shall present the following testimonials and certificates:

1. Certificate of registered permanent residence;
2. Resident's identification card;
3. **Testimonial to marital status issued by one's unit or by the neighbourhood or villagers' committee where the applicants' permanent residence is registered;** and
4. Certificate of premarital medical examination issued by medical and health institutions, which have permission of the municipal public health administrative departments to conduct such examinations, certifying that the person concerned is fit for marriage.

...When applying for remarriage, divorced applicants shall present, in addition to the testimonials and certificates listed in the Clause 1 of this Article, testimonials to their divorce (**Divorce Certificate, or Testimonial to Dissolution of Conjugal Relation**, divorce mediation decision by a people's court, or divorce judgment that has come into effect.)

...Article 16 Procedures of Examination and Issuance of Certificates

Marriage registration administrative organs shall, upon acceptance of applications for marriage registration, conduct examination immediately and, to those who are qualified for marriage, grant marriage registration at once and issue a marriage certificate. In the case of a divorcee, the date of registration for remarriage and the name of the present spouse shall be noted down on his/her divorce certificate and a special seal of marriage registration be affixed to it, and the Divorce Certificate shall be returned to the party concerned.

Both parties concerned shall go in person together to the marriage registration office and affix their signature before they get the Marriage Certificate and shall not entrust one party or others to get the certificate on their behalf. Upon receipt of the Marriage Certificate, the conjugal relation between the applicants for marriage registration is established ('Procedures of Shanghai Municipality on the Administration of Marriage Registration', Shanghai Municipal Government Website <http://www.shanghai.gov.cn/shanghai/node17256/node17413/node17427/userobject6ai917.html> – Accessed 2 October 2009 – Attachment 9).

A 2003 article published in the Communist Party-owned *People's Daily* entitled 'Chinese marriage and divorce registration to be easier and more convenient' describes marriage certificates as red. The article also states that premarital health checks are no longer required before marriages can be registered:

From Oct.1 Chinese citizens carrying residence booklets and identity cards can receive their red marriage certificates simply after they register at marriage offices and sign a statement that they are single.

No reference. No marital status certificate from one's working unit, nor is it necessary to have premarital health examination. From Oct.1 Chinese citizens carrying residence booklets and identity cards can receive their red marriage certificates simply after they register at marriage offices and sign a statement that they are single.

The Regulation on Marriage Registration will come into effect from Oct.1, replacing the Regulation on Administration of Marriage Registration that has been carried out for about nine years. According to the new regulations, marriage registration offices will work in the spirit of serving the people, simplifying procedures for marriage in future.

... The biggest change of the newly issued regulations is to stipulate clearly that couples on the Chinese mainland who apply for marriage registration only need to provide "Hukou" documents and identity cards and sign a statement affirming their single status and no near relation, while procedures for submitting marital status letters from their working units and premarital health examination certificates are annulled. Through simplifying procedures such regulations avert the tediousness of marriage registration as well as the mental and physical consumption of couples to be, and make marriage registration a truly joyful occasion ('Chinese marriage and divorce registration to be easier and more convenient' 2003, *People's Daily*, 22 August http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/200308/22/eng20030822_1228_66.shtml – Accessed 25 August 2003 – Attachment 10).

In 2001 an *eastday.com* article was published on the China.org website announcing that new marriage procedures would be introduced in Shanghai in December of that year that included a "mandatory wedding ceremony under a new marriage law in Shanghai". According to *eastday.com*, couples will have to perform a ten-minute ceremony "presided over by government officials before they are considered legally married":

Yang Shuo and Wang Shuhua had a special day yesterday. The young couple was joined in matrimony, and became the first to take part in a **new mandatory wedding ceremony under a new marriage law in Shanghai**.

In the past, Chinese weddings essentially had two parts: an official process that included health checks and the issuing of a marriage certificate that showed a couple was legally married, and a banquet celebration that most people considered the true wedding.

Beginning in December, couples will have to go through a ceremony presided over by government officials before they are considered legally married.

Getting a jump on the official start was Wang, who appeared beautiful, and her soulmate, Yang. They stepped onto a stage in the Everbright Hotel, where a local official asked if they were getting married on their own accord, if they agreed to treat each other as equals, and if they would take care of each other as well as their parents-in-law - forever.

"Yes," they answered to all the questions.

Since Yang is from Hong Kong, they were not asked if they would abide by the mainland's one-child policy, a question that will be asked of all local couples.

As the 10-minute ceremony came to a close, Yang and Wang smiled as they received a marriage certificate from Vice Mayor Feng Guoqin, who was invited to take part in the first ceremony ('New Wedding Ceremony Debuts in Shanghai' 2001, China.Org.Cn website, source: *eastday.com* 18 September <http://www.china.org.cn/english/2001/Sep/19262.htm> – Accessed 2 October 2009 – Attachment 11).

In 2002 the *China Daily* website published a report by the *Shanghai Star* that in 2001 3,300 weddings took place in Shanghai involving 'international couples, meaning marriages between a local and a foreign citizen. This number, according to the source, represents an increase of 10 percent on the previous year:

Last year witnessed a 10 percent increase in the number of international marriages. As the age gap narrows and more foreign female partners get involved, there may be a real chance of love, writes Tian Xiuzhen.

Zhou said among the 3,300 registered marriages, nearly half are made up of Shanghai women and Japanese men. Most of these women married to Japanese men are divorced or from Shanghai suburbs.

...In the year 2001, the city saw nearly 3,300 such international couples head to the altar, a 10 percent increase on the year 2000.

"Local citizens registered for marriage with people from over 60 countries from around the world in 2001," said Zhou Jixiang, director of Shanghai Marriage Registry Office under the Municipal Civil Administration Bureau ('International Marriages Popular in Shanghai 2002', China Daily website, source: *Shanghai Star*, January 24 <http://www.china.org.cn/english/2002/Jan/25883.htm> – Accessed 5 October 2009 – Attachment 12).

List of Sources Consulted

Internet Sources:

Government

Shanghai Municipal Government <http://www.shanghai.gov.cn>

The Central Government of the People's Republic of China <http://www.gov.cn/>

Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council of the PRC

<http://www.chinalaw.gov.cn/article/english/>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (PRC) <http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/default.htm>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada <http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/Pages/index.htm>

Australian Embassy in China <http://www.china.embassy.gov.au/bjng/DIMA090401.html>

Chinese Media

The China Daily <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn>

The Shanghai Star <http://shanghai-star.com.cn/>

Shanghai Daily <http://www.shanghaidaily.com/>

The People's Daily <http://english.peopledaily.com>

Topic Specific

China Family Law Research Centre <http://www.familylaw.com.cn>

Databases:

FACTIVA (news database)

CISNET (DIAC Country Information database)

REFINFO (IRBDC (Canada) Country Information database)

ISYS (RRT Research & Information database, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, US Department of State Reports)

MRT- RRT Library Catalogue

List of Attachments

1. 'An Overview on Marriage Certificate during different ages in China' 2009, *China Daily* website <http://bbs.chinadaily.com.cn/viewthread.php?tid=629998> – Accessed 5 October 2009.

2. '75 Shanghai couples end marriage every day' 2005, *The China Daily* website, 26 August http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/english/doc/2005-08/26/content_472554.htm – Accessed 01 October 2009.
3. *Procedures of Shanghai Municipality on the Administration of Marriage Registration*, (Promulgated by the Shanghai Municipal People's Government on September 8, 1995; Revised in accordance with the Decision of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government of October 29, 1999 on the Revision of the Procedures of Shanghai Municipality on the Administration of Marriage Registration and promulgated anew), Shanghai Municipal Government website <http://www.shanghai.gov.cn/shanghai/node17256/node17413/node17427/userobject6ai917.html> – Accessed 2 October 2009.
4. Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2005, *China: Reforms of the Household Registration System (Hukou) (1998-2004)*, February.
5. 'Divorce by Agreement – What are the procedures? 2009', China Family Law Research Centre website <http://www.familylaw.com.cn/cases/06.htm> – Accessed 1 October 2009.
6. 'China Notarial Records' 2008, Wiki Family Search website https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/China_Notarial_Records#Divorce_Decrees – Accessed 5 October 2009.
7. 'Additional Information - Partner Migration' (undated), Australian Embassy in China website <http://www.china.embassy.gov.au/bjng/DIMA090401.html> – Accessed 18 August 2009.
8. 'Application for Public Notary of Marriage (Divorce) - Sample in Shanghai' 2005, Shanghai Municipal Government website http://www.shanghai.gov.cn/bgxz/260_1_00002.pdf – Accessed 5 October.
9. 'Procedures of Shanghai Municipality on the Administration of Marriage Registration', Shanghai Municipal Government Website <http://www.shanghai.gov.cn/shanghai/node17256/node17413/node17427/userobject6ai917.html> – Accessed 2 October 2009.
10. 'Chinese marriage and divorce registration to be easier and more convenient' 2003, *People's Daily*, 22 August. (Cisnet China – CX83882)
11. 'New Wedding Ceremony Debuts in Shanghai' 2001, China.Org.Cn website, source: *eastday.com* 18 September <http://www.china.org.cn/english/2001/Sep/19262.htm> – Accessed 2 October 2009.
12. 'International Marriages Popular in Shanghai 2002', China Daily website, source: *Shanghai Star*, January 24 <http://www.china.org.cn/english/2002/Jan/25883.htm> – Accessed 5 October 2009.