

To those who wish to make a pledge under the Shimane Prefecture Partnership Oath System

Shimane Prefecture, in collaboration with all its cities and towns, will jointly launch the Partnership Oath System starting from 1 October 2023. This initiative is aimed at creating an environment where diverse sexual orientations are recognized, allowing sexual minorities to live authentically.

This system enables sexual minority couples who promise to be partners in each other's lives to declare their commitment to living together in cooperation. Shimane Prefecture will accept this declaration, providing proof in the form of a Partnership Oath Card. By presenting this card in various cities and towns, you can access services such as public housing.

*Please note that this system is distinct from marriage under civil law and does not entail legal rights or obligations.

1 Eligibility

It is intended for couples where one or both are sexual minorities

- ① Both are legal adults (at least 18 years of age)
- ② One of you must be a resident of Shimane Prefecture (including those planning to move in)
- ③ Neither is married (including common-law marriages)
- ④ Neither has pledged an Oath with another individual
- ⑤ Both must not be close relatives (couples can still pledge an Oath if they are, or were, related via adoption)

2 How to Pledge Your Partnership Oath

(1) Make an appointment

Make an appointment by phone or email at least two weeks before the desired date you want to pledge your Oath.

Confirm the date, time, place and documents required

- ① Contact for appointment
 - Shimane Prefecture Human Rights Education and Promotion Center (Matsue)
TEL: 0852-22-6051
 - Shimane West Human Rights Education and Promotion Centre (Hamada)
TEL: 0855-29-5503
 - Email: jinken-c@pref.shimane.lg.jp

- ② What you need to tell us when you make a reservation
 - Desired date, time and place (Matsue or Hamada)
 - You and your partner's names (in case of alias, please inform us), date of birth, and addresses
 - Contact details (telephone number or e-mail address)

(2) Pledge of Partnership

- ① Please come to the appointment together on the date and time you have booked.
- ② Please remember to bring the required documents.
- ③ On the day of the appointment, you will be asked to fill in the forms provided by the Prefecture in front of the officer in charge.

(3) Returning Certificates and Cards

If documentation is all in order, it should take around 1 hour to 1.5 hours to issue a Partnership Oath Certificate and a Partnership Oath Card for each of you.

3 Required documents

(1) Resident Record

- Please submit one copy for each applicant.
- Must be issued within the last three months.
- Please prepare a document that does not contain your Individual Number (My number)

(2) Documents proving non-marital status (e.g. Extract of family register or single status certificate)

- For foreign nationals, please attach a Japanese translation of Affidavit of Competency to Marry (also known as the Certificate of No Impediment to Marriage) or other document issued by the embassy or consulate of your home country, proving that you are single.
- Please submit one copy for each applicant.
- Must be issued within the last three months.

(3) A form of ID (e.g. my number card, driving license)

- Please provide a photo ID with your name and date of birth
- If you do not have a photo ID, please consult us at the time of booking.
- If there is an expiry date, it must be within the expiry date.

(4) A document that verifies your alias (if you want to use an alias)

- Please have documents available that confirm that you use your alias in your daily life (e.g. employee ID card, mail, etc.)

- If you use an alias, your name in the family register will be written on the reverse side of the receipt card.

4 Other

- All administrative work related to the oath (reservations, reception etc.) will be conducted in Japanese.
- If you need a foreign language interpreter, please contact the Shimane prefecture Human Rights Education and Promotion Center.