

Supporting couples who will spend their lives together

The Kobe City Life Partner System

Partnership Oath Certificates can be issued from
Monday, December 25, 2023

Appointments to make the partnership oath can be made from Wednesday, December 20
(in order of sign-up).

Under the Kobe City Life Partner System, if two people who have continuously led, or promise to lead, a life together in which they respect each other as lifelong partners and stand on equal footing in their daily lives, declare an oath of partnership to the City of Kobe, the City of Kobe will issue them a certificate acknowledging their status.

What are life partners?

Under this system, "life partners" are defined as two people who have continuously led, or promise to lead, a life together in which they respect each other as lifelong partners and stand on equal footing in their daily lives, in a relationship such as a common-law marriage or a sexual minority couple.

The purpose of this system

This system aims to respect the feelings of couples who have vowed to be life partners, and support them in being able to live true to themselves.

Although this system is not legally binding, couples who have made the oath of partnership can use certain administrative services more smoothly by presenting their certificate.

Who can make the oath of partnership

A couple that meets all 4 of the following conditions:

- Both individuals are legal adults (at least 18 years of age)
- One or both individuals either reside in Kobe, or will do so in the near future
- Neither individual is married, nor in a common-law marriage or life partnership with someone else
- The relationship of the individuals making this oath is not one in which they are prohibited from marrying each other (such as close relatives), as stipulated in Articles 734 to 736 of the Civil Code

Timeline (Appointment required)

Schedule date and time to make the oath (at least 1 week in advance)

Provide both individuals' full names, dates of birth, addresses, contact information, and desired appointment date/time

- Email: jinken@city.kobe.lg.jp
- Tel: 078-322-5233 (Human Rights Promotion Division, Welfare Bureau)

Available when City Hall is open 8:45~12:00, 13:00~17:30

Prepare required documents (by the appointment date)

Prepare both individuals' resident records, family registers, and personal identification (see website for details)

Submit Oath Declaration Form (appointment date)

Go together to City Hall at the scheduled date and time. Fill out the Oath Declaration Form, and submit it with the required documents.

Receive Partnership Oath Certificate (generally within the day)

Visit the Kobe City website for more information (Japanese)



神戸市 ライフパートナー



Or search "Kobe City Life Partner" in Japanese