

NotaryNEWS

The Seasonal Newsletter of the Notary.Co.Uk Team

Spring 2010

Notarising Documents for UAE and Qatar

The most common document a notary deals with, particularly in relation to business in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar, is a Power of Attorney (PoA). A PoA is what is usually needed in order for you to authorise a third party to act on your behalf in your absence. For this to take effect you will need to appoint someone to represent you; that person(s) is normally referred to as an "attorney". This does not mean that the attorney(s) you appoint is a lawyer- it could be a trusted friend or a relative. The process of validating a power of attorney differs from one country to the next - we deal with all countries - however documents for the UAE are amongst the most complex.

To validate a Power of attorney for use within the UAE you need to sign the document in front of the Notary Public. the



PoA then has to be "legalised" at HM Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) - that is to say the FCO will further stamp the document with an endorsement called an "Apostille"; this verifies that the notary's signature is genuine. The Power of Attorney will then need to be

stamped at the UAE. Embassy before it can be sent to off your agents.

Fees vary according to what needs to be done, FCO fees are charged per document: £28 for a 5-6 working days turnaround service or £69 for the express service. As for UAE embassy fees, they vary from £20.00 to £410.00 depending upon the urgency and whether your documents are personal or for a Company.

If you are going to work or conducting business in the UAE or Gulf region you probably will need to produce certified copies of various certificates, we can make and certify copies of academic certificates.

For a full break down of costs and timescale for doing this, please contact us on 020 763 1777 or email info@notary.co.uk ■

A big attraction of going to work in the Gulf is that there is no income tax and, until 2009, it was seen as an exciting and invigorating place for upwardly-mobile Brits with professional skills. But all good parties come to an end, and that is exactly what has happened in Dubai. Simon Goldsmith, a spokesman for the British Embassy in Dubai, said, "there were approximately 100,000 Britons living in Dubai last year - however the embassy has no way of tracking how many have fled back to the UK. We've heard stories, but when somebody makes that kind of decision, they generally keep it to themselves."

Police have issued warrants against owners of the deserted cars-apparently over 3000 in total have been abandoned at Dubai airport. Those who return risk arrest at the airport. Here are the grim statistics from *The Times* feature "Heading Home"

"8% population decline predicted this year, as expatriates leave

1,500 visas cancelled every day in Dubai It is predicted that 62% of homes occupied by expatriates will fall in value by more than 60%

50% slump in the price of luxury apartments on Palm Jumeirah



25% reduction in luxury spending among UAE expatriates."

Anyone requiring advice on general matters concerning the UAE, please give us a call.

Still determined to work in the UAE?

Of course, it is not all doom and gloom in the Gulf and many people continue to do extremely well. Many of our clients are heading out there while

the recession in Britain continues. At Notary.Co.UK Ltd, we are very conversant with the forms needed for applying for work permits for the UAE and Qatar. Before a visa can be granted, you will need all your academic certificates certified by a notary. When you are offered a job, the company that employs you will process the formalities required for getting you the work permit and this involves initially getting you a residence permit. You cannot leave the company that sponsored you for another company without their permission.

The Party is over in Dubai

The UAE authorities are extremely particular about the documents necessary, and in the absence of even one, can result in your application being refused. Hence, you should be extremely careful that you have all these documents with you:

1. Passport, which should have at least six months' validity.
2. If you are accompanied by your spouse and children each one of them should have a separate passport.
3. There should not be any Israel visa entry on the passport.
4. Marriage certificate if your spouse is accompanying you.
5. If you are a female employee and will have your children staying with you, you will need a letter of consent from the father of the children which is certified, notarised and attested.
6. Notarised copies of your academic certificates.

We also deal with applications for Saudi Arabia and here the requirements are more stringent. Please contact us for more information. ■

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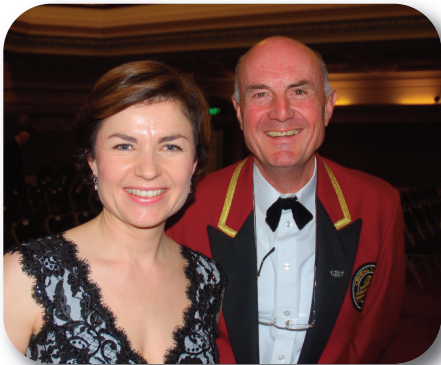
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All for a Good Cause

The last edition of NotaryNEWS reported on the Heart Foundation's London to Brighton bike ride. Basil Preuveneers' winter fund raiser was much easier; as a cornet-playing member of Crystal Palace Band he performed at the Parkinson's Disease Society Annual Christmas Carol concert.

www.parkinsons.org.uk/default.aspx?page=9681 The concert this year was hosted by BBC newsreader, Jane Hill (seen here with Basil) and attended again by veteran actor Sir Richard Briers.

Now it's your turn. Clients and friends are invited to join the Notary Co UK team on Sunday 21st March for Sports Relief's 'mother of all Miles ...' London Milers will be setting off from Victoria Embankment, opposite the London Eye see www.sportrelief.com/the-mile/london-mile. We would suggest a pre-run coffee at ours (Grosvenor Gardens SW1) www.notary.co.uk/sportsrelief.html Please sign yourselves up online www.sportrelief.com/the-mile/london-mile and join us for the 3-mile 11.45am-start run. Email us to arrange where to meet - we'll donate an extra £5 per head for all Notary Co UK starters (you don't even have to finish the course!) ■



Orient Success

For a decade now China has been on our "countries-to-watch" list – it's just over 7 years since Goldman Sachs' chief economist Jim O'Neill coined the phrase BRICs – Brazil, Russia, India, China – as a generic term for emerging markets.

The Goldman Sachs report speculated that by 2050 these four economies would be wealthier than most of the current major economic powers. And, certainly as far as China is concerned, it seems to be looking that way. For example China is forecast to replace the US as the world's biggest construction market by 2018.

According to OPP Overseas Property Professional December 09, Shanghai rates 4th in their list of the world's fastest-growing housing markets achieving, in 2009, a year-on-year change of 3.97%, Hong Kong is 5th with a y-o-y 3.6%. 'Global Property Guide' reports that the foreign demand for luxury property in Hong Kong is behind the fact that house prices rose 8% over the second quarter of 2009. Indeed the city has recorded the sale – at \$57m – of the world's most expensive apartment!

China's buoyant economy provides excellent business opportunities for British firms. O'Neill is reported as saying "Despite the regulatory shortfalls of recent years – our legal system stands us in a position second to none. As much as Shanghai is being developed as an international financial centre and Hong

Kong is enjoying yet another of its remarkable booms, London's place at the centre of the global time zone is unique ... a huge advantage."; and the fact that the business language of choice in China is English.

All this has contributed to the fact that more and more people from the West are seeking business and employment opportunities in China or travelling there to attend exhibitions such as 'Expo 2010 Shanghai'. Another is 'Expocomm' - the largest telecom industry event held in Asia returning to Beijing this year.

We here at **Notary.Co.UK** are certainly dealing with more and more documents relating to China.

Such documents are frequently Powers of Attorney and contracts, both of which have to be notarised and legalised; if the documents are to be utilised in mainland China, they will need to be stamped at the Chinese Embassy (fees vary from £15.00 to £80.00 per document). Different rules apply for documents intended for use in Hong Kong or Macau. For a full breakdown of costs and how long it will take for us to have your document(s) legally effective in China please contact us via email or telephone. ■



Police Certificates

We are often asked about Police Certificates, when people want to prove that they do not have a criminal record. If you require a police certificate for the purposes of applications for emigration, visa or residency in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa or the United States of America, we can certainly help you.



Making a Will

Don't forget that here at **Notary.Co.UK**, we can offer some very constructive advice about making a will and inheritance tax liability. Please contact us on 020 763 1777 or email info@notary.co.uk for further details.

Alive & Kicking?

A seemingly unusual request is for the notary to tell you that you are alive! You probably already know that but the organisation paying your overseas pension may not believe you. They need to prove you are alive – presumably they have been caught out by fraudulent claims where relatives continue to claim long after the pensioner has died. ■

Client Update: Adopting Children from India

In our summer edition of NotaryNEWS we reported the difficulties some couples have had when adopting children from India. We are pleased to report that one of our clients has been able to beat the system and has successfully adopted her first child.

She has learnt so much about the adoption system from her own first hand experience, that she has become an expert. Her services are being eagerly sought by many other couples wishing to adopt. Better news still she has decided to put her skills to good use by joining **Notary.Co.UK** as a specialist advisor. This service will benefit many of our clients and put us in the forefront of experts advising on adoption matters. ■