

# Registration Service and Celebrants

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REGISTER OF  
BIRTHS

# Introduction

## Background

- Thousands of Celebrants across the Country
- Must work together rather than against each other
- Last Years Conference

# Collaboration

Lets work together

Informing the couples of the right information

Supporting local celebrants

# Issues between Registration and Celebrants

- Registration see Celebrants as a threat
- Registration can be 'protective' of the Legal side of marriage
- Celebrants can be negative about Registrars
- Lack of understanding/willingness to work together

# Pilot Scheme

Working Together

Informing the couples of the right information

Supporting local celebrants

# Working Together

## Aims of the Scheme

- To foster better relationships between local celebrants and Registrars
- To encourage Celebrants and Registrars to work together
- Encourage Celebrants and the LA to promote each others services
- To improve knowledge of each others service and offerings
- To allow customers to have a Ceremony that incorporates Legal Marriage and Celebrant elements in one Ceremony

# Working Together

## Benefits of the Scheme

- Allow greater choice for customers
- Promote both celebrants and Registrars Services
- Bring both ceremony types together at same time
- Learn from each other
- Could lead to more venues becoming licensed

# Registration Service Venues

As well as the Registration Offices there are more than 100 Licensed Venues within Staffordshire where couples can get married, these can sometimes be referred to as Civil Ceremonies.

Marriages and Civil Partnerships must take place in readily identifiable premises, this means that they cannot be held in the open air, in a tent, marquee or other temporary structure and in most forms of transport.

Each wedding venue has a license for individual rooms, a legal ceremony must be held in one of the rooms which holds a license.

Ceremony prices depend on the day, most ceremonies at the registry offices will either be a Friday or a Saturday.



# Legal Ceremonies

## Registrars Ceremony Run-Through

- Preliminary Checks – Paperwork, Choices, Preparation of Certificate / Register
- Meet and Greet at venue / Check venue suitability
- Interview of Bride and Groom
- Preparation of Marriage Certificate
- Complete Register during legal Ceremony
- Signing of Register – Couple and witnesses
- Completion of Marriage Certificate
- Leave!



# What is Legally Essential?

- Declaratory Words
- Contracting Vows
- Both in Prescribed Form
- If you give legal definition it must be the prescribed definition

# What is Legally Optional?

- This place in which we are now met..
- Give your full name
- Definition of Marriage
- Most of the words the Celebrant Uses!

## Ceremony

- The declaratory and contracting words should be repeated by the parties in their own language and must then also be repeated by them to the best of their ability in English. This procedure should ensure that the parties and their witnesses understand the full meaning of the marriage ceremony.
- In the case of people who are deaf or unable to speak, they should bring an interpreter with them who understands the language of the deaf; otherwise the words of the declaration and contracting words should be written out and signed by the parties in token of their assent.
- If an interpreter is used then they should sign the marriage register as one of the witnesses.

# Celebrant Ceremony

- Adding elements outside of Legal Ceremony
- Historically seen as  
    *“We must have left the premises...!”*
- No legal reason why this is the case
- Must not ‘Muddy the water’ of what is legal part and what is not
- Needs Registrars ‘part’ to be continuous

# Celebrant Ceremony

- Does not mean Celebrant could not start – handover to Registrar – who then hands back to Celebrant
- Could be any variation of above

# Arranging a 'Joint Ceremony'

- Customer is most likely to approach you first
- Historically, perhaps advised to have legal ceremony before or after as a £50 Statutory
- Aims of the scheme would be to encourage both Ceremonies on same day
- Usual checks with venue re availability
- Contact us re availability of Registrars
- Log that Ceremony is to be 'joint' with us

## Arranging a 'Joint Ceremony'

- Nearer to time of Ceremony – liaise with Registrars re ceremony running order



## Information for Clients

Advise of possibilities:

If they are requesting a licensed venue

- Joint Ceremony possible – Contact us to arrange legal part

If they are requesting a non-licensed venue

- Consider same day Statutory Ceremony
- Consider if venue may want to become licensed?

## Information for Clients

Give good advice on the legalities of Marriage –

- Notice of Marriage, 28 day waiting period
- Statutory Ceremony options
- Prices of LA services

We will give advice regarding local Celebrants –  
links to you via website

We will promote the possibilities of joint  
ceremony

## Feedback

We will be organising for feedback to be sought from the couples regarding the arranging and conducting of any joint ceremonies

Feedback will be encouraged from Celebrants and Registrars alike

Data will be assessed regarding revenue

## Marketing / PR

SCC will be advertising a link to local Celebrants in our new edition of “Getting Married in Staffordshire”

This information will also be available on our website

Registration Offices will also promote the scheme

## Combined Wedding Ceremonies

**Congratulations on marrying in Staffordshire,  
the only county to offer seamless ceremonies  
with a registrar and a celebrant.**

### What are 'Combined Wedding Ceremonies'?

These ceremonies are where both registrar and celebrant work together so you can have your legal formalities and your personal celebrant-led ceremony in front of all your guests at the same place, on the same day at the same time.

### This means:

More opportunity to hold your ceremony outside  
No need to visit the register office for legal formalities on a different day  
ALL guests can see ALL parts of your wedding

See over for further details



## How to find a Celebrant:

Visit this link:

[www.civilceremonies.co.uk/ceremonies/combined-wedding-celebrants](http://www.civilceremonies.co.uk/ceremonies/combined-wedding-celebrants)

for details of the celebrants offering Combined Wedding Ceremonies in Staffordshire. Celebrants will advise you on costs and how to book the registrar. They will make sure the registrar knows it is a combined ceremony.

Civil Ceremonies Ltd, who train and qualify civil celebrants, are working jointly with Staffordshire registration service to offer these ceremonies throughout the county.

For further information you can call Civil Ceremonies Ltd on

01480 276080 or email:

[info@civilceremonies.co.uk](mailto:info@civilceremonies.co.uk)

Please note: the legal part of your ceremony will still need to take place within one of the licensed areas of your venue



## So .... How's it Going?!

- Enquiries – Lack of Bookings!
- First confirmed booking for early next year
- Working with Celebrant and Couple as planned

## Barriers

- Cost
- Celebrant Ceremonies often not in Licensed Premises
- Lack of knowledge of the option

## Moving Forward

- Further promotion and marketing to customers
- Continued push from Celebrants/Registrars
- Education to venues of the option



## Summary

key is collaboration not obstructions

Work with each other to focus on the “WHY” for the customer – to be legally married but to have the ceremony they want which could well include both Registrars and Celebrants



# *Getting Married*

IN STAFFORDSHIRE 2018

**Any questions?**



Staffordshire  
County Council