

A QUICK GUIDE TO SORTING OUT THE LEGAL STUFF.

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REGIONAL
WINNER
THE 2022
WEDDING
INDUSTRY AWARDS



Find your local register office

First of all find your local register office by copying and pasting this website into your browser.

<https://www.gov.uk/register-offices>

This should ask for your postcode then take you to your local councils website and tell you how to get in touch with a Registrar. There will usually be an email and a phone number. Some areas will have a dedicated registrar website with more information about fees and types of ceremony available. Others will be very basic with just a phone number. (The link to mine in Darwen doesn't even work at all)

We'll use an area local to me as a reference.

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/births-marriages-and-deaths/ceremonies/>

Click on Marriage & civil partnership fees or visit the url below

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/births-marriages-and-deaths/ceremonies/marriage-and-civil-partnership-fees/>

The above website showcases the types of marriage ceremony and the fees of each type available to couples. If your local area does not have this you can request a break down of ceremony options and prices available.

The first ceremony, available on a Monday between 9:45 and noon costs only £50 + £11 for marriage certificate and is a standard ceremony with a maximum of 10 guests.

My register office is generous here, usually this type of ceremony is referred to as a 2 by 2 simple ceremony. It only allows for the couple and two witnesses to be present. Some counties may allow additional guests at their own discretion, ie Lancashire allows 10 guests.





A legal obligation

Every local council is legally obliged to offer couples a 2 by 2 ceremony but lots don't advertise this option on their website. The time and days available for these ceremonies will change for every register office, it may be a Monday morning once a week, or a Thursday afternoon once a month. But they have to offer you this ceremony type as an option, although it may involve travelling to another register office a little further away.

What will the simple ceremony involve?

A 2 by 2 ceremony includes only the legal elements needed to perform a marriage. It includes a declaration and contracting words, plus the signing of the legal paperwork.

This ceremony does not have to include an exchange or rings, although you can do this if you want to.

What about giving notice?

Giving notice is NOT the same as booking your registrar, or simply sending an email letting us know that you will be booking a ceremony! It's the legal declaration that you intend to marry or form a partnership. You will have a private appointment with a Registration Officer to give details of your ceremony date and venue and details about yourself. The notice will then be publicly displayed in the Register Office for 28 days before permission is granted.

You have to give notice of marriage in the district where you live - even if the ceremony is elsewhere. If your ceremony will be in a different location than the place you live, you'll need to give notice with your local register office.





When do we need to give notice?

You may give notice up to 1 year in advance, but it must be at least 28 days before your wedding or civil partnership.

They normally recommend doing it around 3-6 months before your big day. This means you have time to order essential paperwork if you find you don't have the right documents, and still gives you flexibility should you need to move your ceremony date if needed.

Once you have successfully given notice, the marriage authority is valid for a full year, from the date of your appointment and for the venue you have chosen.

With your notice given and your simple ceremony booked there's nothing else to do except book your wedding workshop with me so I can get started on creating your one of a kind ceremony for the wedding day with your family and friends.



STILL HAVE
QUESTIONS?

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