



A SUMMARY: THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF MARRIAGE

England, Wales or Northern Ireland

- You can choose a religious ceremony in a place of worship or a civil wedding in a licensed venue or registry office.
- Marriages can take place between 8am and 6pm any day of the week, however, restrictions apply in individual churches and registry offices.

Scotland

- You can have religious or civil ceremony anywhere. You will just need an Officiate and 2 witnesses.
- There are no time restrictions in Scotland.

Throughout the UK 2 witnesses are required and usually need to be over the age of 18.

Notice of Marriage

Unless you are getting married in a Church of England or Church in Wales, each person has to give a formal Notice of Marriage at the registry office in the registration district where they live. They must have lived in the registration district for at least seven days immediately before giving Notice of Marriage. 15 days later a Marriage Authority is issued. The Marriage Authorities must be given to the registrar or minister conducting the marriage. Notice of Marriage is valid for 12 months and therefore cannot be given until within 12 months of the wedding date. Fees apply.

Documents needed to give Notice of Marriage

- Proof of Identity - birth certificate and/or passport. (If you are not a British citizen a passport or identity document must be produced)
- Evidence of residence
- If under 18, written consent from parent or legal guardian
- If widowed, the death certificate of spouse
- If divorced, the Decree Absolute
- If you have changed your name you will need to provide the supporting deeds

Please note other documents may be required. Photocopies cannot be accepted. Certified translations into English will be required.

Overseas weddings

We suggest you contact the consulate of the country where you want to marry or the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to establish the laws and documentation required. Your travel agent may also be able to offer you advice. They will also tell you if your marriage will be recognised in the UK.

Marriages officiated abroad in accordance with the laws of a foreign country cannot be registered in the UK. Although it may be possible to record the marriage with The General Register Office.

Please note this document is provided as a general guide. We recommend you check official resources if you have any concerns regarding the legalities of marriage