

getting
MARRIED
IN STAFFORDSHIRE 2017

Presented by

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A close-up photograph of a bride and groom holding hands. The bride is on the left, wearing a white dress and holding a large bouquet of white and pink flowers. The groom is on the right, wearing a dark suit and a white shirt. They are both looking towards each other. The background is blurred, showing some greenery and a purple flower.

Collaboration

Lets work together

Informing the couples of the right information

Supporting local celebrants

Registration 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.

Notice of Marriage (NOM)



Notice of Marriage

Giving notice is the legal side of the marriage/civil partnership that every couple must do at least 30 days before the ceremony takes place.

These are no longer called a marriage license instead they are called an authority which is a legal document that allows the marriage to take place.

The notices will be put on public display at the Registration Office for this period, if there is no legal objection to the marriage/civil partnership during this period then the couple are then free to go ahead with the ceremony.

Both partners will need to give their notice prior to the ceremony which will need to take place within 12 months of the notice date

Notice of Marriage

Both partners must have lived in England or Wales for 9 full days immediately before they give their notice, it doesn't matter if they then move to a different address once notice has been given

The couple must give notice within the district where they live, this is irrelevant of where the ceremony is taking place, therefore notice may need to be given separately if they live in different authorities. If both live within the same authority they have the option to attend a joint or separate appointment.

The couple both need to be over the age of 18 to marry, or between 16-18 with their parents/guardians consent.

Notice of Marriage

DIVORCE

- Only a divorce granted by a competent Court in England and Wales is acceptable.
- A minimum of 6 weeks will have normally have elapsed since a Decree Nisi or nullity of marriage can be made final/absolute.
- An original or Court certified copy must be produced.
- If the document is not available at the time of giving notice, the notice can still be taken, although the certificates to marry will not be authorised and issued until the outstanding documentation has been seen.

European Citizens

European Citizens in the EEA (European Economic Area) are free to give their Notice of Marriage at any Registration Office in the district where they reside, alternatively if either partner is not an European Citizen and they wish to get married in England & Wales then both partners must give notice at a [Designated Registration Office](#).

Regardless of the district where the couple reside they can attend any Designated Registration Office, the closest to Staffordshire are either Birmingham or Stoke.

If their nationality is not listed on the following page then they **are not** an European Citizen.

Giving Notice

Changing the venue

- If the couple change the venue of their ceremony after they have given their notice, then they must repeat the notice of marriage process incurring another fee. However the couple can change the date (provided within 12 months after the notice entered) or move house without having to repeat it.

Church ceremonies

- For marriages taking place in all churches other than Church of England, the couple must attend their local registration office to give their notice. The Church of England will arrange to have their Banns read out in church on the three Sundays leading up to the ceremony. The vicar will instruct the couple if otherwise.

Ceremonies



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.

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Registration service can support with legal advice

Can tailor marriages to accommodate celebrants ceremony

Any questions?