



MARRIAGE CELEBRANT RESOURCES

The Guidelines on the Marriage Act 1961 with 2017 Amendments for Marriage Celebrants contain material relevant to all authorised celebrants. However not all the material in these guidelines is relevant to Ministers of religion celebrants. There are three categories of authorised celebrants:

- Ministers of religion who are registered to solemnise marriages for a recognised denomination. In this case, under the Rites of Churches of Christ in Australia. Authorised celebrants will have a registration number that begins with a letter relating to the State/Territory in which they are registered.
- State and Territory Officers (staff of Registry of Birth, Deaths and Marriages (BDM) or court officers).
- Marriage celebrants registered by the Commonwealth under the Marriage Celebrants Program and referred to in the guidelines as "Commonwealth-registered marriage celebrants."

WHO CAN YOU MARRY AND WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF AND RESTRICTIONS ON A RELIGIOUS CELEBRANT?

As authorised celebrants it is our role and legal responsibility to formalise the "union of two people to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life." This is the new definition of marriage as outlined in the Marriage Act.

As a Religious Celebrant, you can only marry people using the rites of the Recognised Denomination you hold your licence through. Churches of Christ Australia can only solemnise marriages between a man and a woman according to their rites. To marry a party outside of this is a contravention of the Act.

PRE MARRIAGE COUNSELLING

As far as the Act is concerned this is the extent of your legal responsibility with regards to pre-marriage education and counselling. Ministers are encouraged to offer pre-marriage counselling over at least 3 to 4 sessions.

Prepare-Enrich is a popular customised couple assessment completed online that identifies a couple's strength and growth areas.

<https://www.prepare-enrich.com.au/>

LEGAL DOCUMENTS

NOTICE OF INTENDED MARRIAGE FORM (UPDATED SEPT 2021)

Downloadable from the Attorney- General's Department <https://www.ag.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-08/notice-of-intended-marriage.PDF>

A couple comes to you asking for you to officiate their wedding; if they are of marriageable age and their wedding date is more than a month but less than 18 months away you will make a time for them to come and visit you to complete a Notice of Intended Marriage Form.

HAPPILY EVER... BEFORE AND AFTER BROCHURE

Downloadable from the Attorney-General's Department <https://www.ag.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-03/happily-ever-before-and-after.pdf>

This document outlines the obligations and consequences of marriage (it actually presents subsection 42(5A) of the Marriage Act) and it also lets couples know about the availability of marriage education and counselling and other important legal matters concerning marriage.

DECLARATION OF NO LEGAL IMPEDIMENT TO MARRIAGE AND OFFICIAL CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE FORM (UPDATED SEPT 2021)

Downloadable from the Attorney-General's Department <https://www.ag.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-08/declaration-of-no-legal-impediment-to-marriage.PDF>

To be used by marrying couples and approved marriage celebrants declaring there is no legal impediment between the couple to be married; and is the official application for a legal marriage certificate.

Declaration of No Legal Impediment to Marriage and Official Certificate of Marriage Form
(updated Sept 2021)

FORM 15 CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE

Can only be purchased through CanPrint Communications. You must provide your celebrant registration number. <https://marriage.infoservices.com.au/>

The Certificate of Marriage signed on the day by the couple and witnesses.

RED BOOK MARRIAGE REGISTER

Available from CanPrint Communications marriage@infoservices.com.au

This hard copy book is kept on file either as the Church record or individual celebrant record of weddings performed.

MORE INFORMATION

More information can be found on the Attorney-General's Department website <https://www.ag.gov.au/families-and-marriage/marriage/resources-marriage-celebrants/download-resources>