



Choosing your Celebrant

You want the best because your ceremony cannot be repeated.

Your wedding ceremony should be unique and memorable. The Celebrant is the most conspicuous service-provider for your very special life-event, and you'll want that event to be presented in a way that is memorable for all the 'right reasons'. Your choice of celebrant is one of the most significant decisions that you will make with regard to your wedding, for it is the celebrant who starts you out on your journey through life as a married couple.

Whilst you may have engaged a professional photographer and may have chosen the nicest surroundings in which to be married, it is the beauty and elegance of the ceremony that you and your family and friends will remember, above anything else, when your wedding is talked about in the years to come. It is therefore important to choose your celebrant carefully, and, within reason, you should not make your decision based upon cost alone.

Personality

- Does the celebrant inspire confidence that your ceremony will be professionally prepared and presented in accordance with your wishes?
- Does the celebrant listen to you and respond to your needs?
- Can you write your own vows? Will your celebrant support you in this?
- Will you know what your celebrant intends to say at your ceremony?
- Will your celebrant encourage you to have an input into your ceremony?
- Do you feel that you will be welcome to contact your celebrant about any issues regarding your ceremony and not be considered a nuisance or a bother?

Knowledge & Experience

- Is the product and service the celebrant is offering in tune with what you want?
- Has the celebrant a wide range of experience upon which to call?
- Does your celebrant have lots of great ideas and does he/she give you the impression that your marriage is as important to him/her as it is to yourselves?
- Can the celebrant make suggestions as to elements to be included in your ceremony?
- If you change your mind about the content (or style) of your ceremony is your celebrant sufficiently innovative and flexible to adapt as well?
- Is the celebrant an experienced public speaker with clear a speaking voice? Will all your guests be able to hear the ceremony? Will the celebrant provide a PA system if necessary?
- Does your celebrant have testimonials from previous clients that you could have a look at and photos of recent weddings that he/she has conducted?
- Is the celebrant a 'hobbyist' celebrant or a full time, professional celebrant? Does this matter to you?

Professionalism

- A Civil Marriage Celebrant has certain obligations under the Marriage Act 1961 – are these explained to you at your first meeting.
- In what ways will your ceremony be personalised?
- Will the celebrant attend an on-site rehearsal in the week/days leading up to your wedding?
- What will the celebrant wear on the day?
- What happens if there is an inordinate delay in agreed start time for the ceremony?
- Is the fee that the celebrant has quoted, the total charge or are there (hidden) extra charges that might be levied later – such as if you decide to include an extra ritual?
- Does the celebrant have a copyright licence?
- Does the celebrant hold Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance?
- Does the celebrant use a service agreement so that you know exactly, & in writing, what services are provided?
- Is the celebrant a member of at least one professional celebrants' association?
- Does the celebrant offer an obligation-free initial meeting to allow you to ascertain if he/she is the right person for you?