



Legals Only Ceremony – What’s involved?

Firstly, a big congratulations on finding your special person! What a wonderful feeling love is. I am honoured to be considered to officiate your Legals Only Ceremony.

A Legals Only Ceremony is a simple one and usually takes between 5 and 10 minutes.

Depending on how many people are present, we may include a short introduction, followed by the Monitum and Official Vows (see point 7), and signing the Form 15 (Certificate of Marriage), Official Marriage Certificate and Marriage Register in the presence of your witnesses.

If you like, I can then pronounce you as married and the Ceremony is concluded.

Let’s have a look at the process in detail...

1. Lodging the NOIM (Notice of Intended Marriage)

It is very important that we lodge your NOIM (Notice of Intended Marriage) at least one calendar month prior to your Ceremony date. This is a legal requirement. I am able to email this document to you for you to pre-fill or am happy to help you fill it in upon our meeting. My receiving the completed NOIM renders it lodged.

It is easiest to lodge the NOIM and sight the required documents (see point 3 below) during our face-to-face meeting.

2. There are some legal requirements that need to be met in order to proceed with the Ceremony. Here are some questions that will help determine our next steps:

- i. Will both parties be over the age of 18 on the Ceremony date?
- ii. Do both parties speak English?
- iii. Are all documents that are required to be sighted (please see point 3 below: “Documents to be sighted”) written in English?
- iv. Do both parties have all required documentation (please see point 3)?
- v. Are both parties free to marry? I.e. Never validly married, divorced or widowed.
- vi. Do you have 2 witnesses who are both over the age of 18 who can hear and understand the vows?

*If the answer to any of the above is “no”, there are further courses of action we will undertake in order to ensure all legal requirements are met. Once you have emailed me your responses, I can advise further if we need to do this.

3. Documents to be sighted at our face-to-face meeting

Both parties to the marriage must produce documentation showing proof of their date and place of birth. The **only** forms of acceptable identification for this purpose are:

- i. An original birth certificate (or extract), or
- ii. A passport.

The passport does not have to be current – an expired passport will still show your date and place of birth. However, a cancelled passport **cannot** be used.

4. “Happily Ever...Before and After”

At our face-to-face meeting, it is a requirement that I briefly discuss with you both the wide range of pre-marriage counselling services that are available to you. I will give you a helpful brochure, named, “Happily Ever...Before and After”, which has more information available inside.

5. Fees

My services as your Marriage Celebrant are confirmed upon my receipt of payment. It is preferable for this payment to be made by direct deposit either before, during or immediately after our face-to-face meeting. I will send my bank details to you prior to our meeting.

6. Lodging the DONLIM (Declaration of no legal impediment to marriage)

This is a form that we lodge just prior to the Ceremony, on the day. This form is on the back of the Official Certificate of Marriage which is the one we sign during the Ceremony.

7. Legally required exact wording that must be used in your Ceremony:

i. The Monitum (said by me)

“I am duly authorised by law to solemnize marriages according to law.

Before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of these witnesses, I am to remind you of the solemn and binding nature of the relationship into which you are now about to enter.

Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of two people to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life”.

ii. Exchanging of Wedding Vows (said by each of you)

“I call upon the persons here present to witness that I (name 1), take you (name 2), to be my lawful wedded wife/husband/spouse.

8. Other legally required inclusions in your Ceremony:

i. Witnessing by 2 people who are both over the age of 18 and can hear and understand the vows (or witness the vows in the presence of an interpreter).

ii. Signing of the relevant Certificates and Marriage Register.

9. Lodging all the legal paperwork

After your Ceremony, you are officially married!

I will collate all our paperwork and send it to Births Deaths and Marriages where they will process and store it.

And that's all there is to it! It might look daunting but I will be here at every step of the way to make sure it is all completed properly, and to answer any questions you may have.

If you would like to perform another Ceremony at a different time, perhaps when more family and friends are able to be present, I would be delighted to be considered.

Please do not hesitate to email me or phone me if you have any questions.