

Legal Requirements of your marriage ceremony.

1. Notice of Intended Marriage (NOIM)

This form is to be received by the celebrant no less than one full month and no more than eighteen months prior to the date of marriage (also see identification requirements over page).

If there are extenuating circumstances preventing you from lodging the form a month in advance, please contact me to discuss the reasons for which a 'shortening of time' may be granted.

2. Declarations of no impediment to Marry (formerly known as Form 14)

This is the declaration by each of the couple that there is no legal impediment to the marriage and must be signed by the parties closer to (but by law before) the wedding.

Traditionally signed at the rehearsal, this can be completed anytime the week prior by appointment.

3. Form of ceremony.

The following must be spoken as a minimum legal requirement:

By the celebrant:

I, Sarah Brncic, am duly authorized by law to solemnise 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 in which you are now about to enter.

Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.

By the groom:

"I call upon the persons here present, To witness that I, <Groom's full name>...*

Take you, <Bride's full name>....To be my lawful wedded wife.*

By the bride:

"I call upon the persons here present, To witness that I, <Bride's full name>...*

Take you, <Groom's full name>....To be my lawful wedded husband.*

*For these legal vows, the person's full legal name should be used, as it appears on your identification documents (proof of birth or proof of change of name). A preferred name or nickname may be used at any other time throughout the ceremony.

4. Signing of the Certificates.

Three documents are signed on the day by the couple, the celebrant and two witnesses (to be nominated by you, must be over 18 years old). These are:

- The Certificate of Marriage– to be given to the couple on the day*
- The Official Certificate of Marriage– this will be forwarded to the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages within 14 days of the marriage
- The Marriage Register Certificate of Marriage – 'Red Book' Celebrant copy.

* The ceremonial certificate I present you with is evidence of your marriage. However, for many purposes, such as changing the name on your passport, you will need to obtain the *Registered Copy* of your Marriage Certificate after I have lodged your paperwork with the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages in WA. This is available through an application form (with the appropriate ID and fee) lodged either via post or in person. More information and the application form can be downloaded from: <http://www.bdm.dotag.wa.gov.au/> .

5. Identification & Marital Status Requirements

To complete the NOIM, you will need to provide Proof of Birth documents in the form of:

- an official (original) certificate of birth, or an official extract of an entry in an official register showing the date and place of birth of the party (translated if not in English); *Preferred; OR*
- a passport issued by the Australian government or a government of an overseas country showing the date and place of birth of the party.

In addition to Proof of Birth documents, I will need to view current, photo ID to ensure you are the same person shown on the birth documents. I can accept a valid drivers licence or passport with photo for this purpose.

If either party has been previously married, I require proof that the previous marriage has ended. This can take form of confirmation of dissolution (divorce documents) or nullity (court documents), or the death certificate of the previous spouse if widowed.

If you would like to complete the application for a Registered Copy of your Marriage Certificate, you will need to provide three forms of ID. The list and combinations of acceptable documents is attached to the form and can be downloaded from:

http://www.bdm.dotag.wa.gov.au/identification_requirements.aspx

I am able to certify photocopies of the identification to allow for postal submission. Please let me know if you would like me to assist with this.

If you are unsure about any of the requirements, are unable to comply with any of the necessary items, or have any questions relating to any other aspect of your marriage, please contact me to discuss or clarify.

Particularly note that as the NOIM form is time sensitive, and copies of birth certificates or other documents can take time, please ensure you have reviewed this information in early enough to avoid delays or stress in the lead up to your wedding day.

This document is intended to be an overview only and not to be relied on solely and exclusively. Please visit the Website of the Department of the Attorney General for further information. Where there is any discrepancy in the information presented, the Department of Attorney General is the correct and overriding authority regarding legislation.

<http://www.ag.gov.au/FamiliesAndMarriage/Marriage/Pages/Getting-married.aspx>