

# FAQs

## Let me answer your questions!

### The legal stuff

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There are certain eligibility requirements. You must:

- Not already be married
- Not be marrying a parent, child, grandchild or sibling
- Be at least 18 years old (unless you have Court approval)
- Understand what marriage means and freely agree to marry
- Use specific wording during the ceremony
- Give a Notice of Intended Marriage form to an authorised marriage celebrant at least one month before and no more than 18 months before your wedding
- Be married by an authorised marriage celebrant.

There are also certain legal words that must be said in the ceremony but don't worry - I'll make sure this gets covered.

You do not have to be:

- An Australian citizen
- A permanent resident of Australia

For more information, visit: [www.ag.gov.au](http://www.ag.gov.au)

### So what does a celebrant do?

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We do a lot!

But specifically, in Australia, Commonwealth registered marriage celebrants are appointed to legally marry two people in a civil ceremony. We represent the Attorney General and must at all times act professionally and in accordance with the Code of Practice for Marriage Celebrants.

We will learn about our couples and re-tell their story on their wedding day, while ensuring that all the legal requirements are taken care of.

We'll create a meaningful, unforgettable and personalised ceremony for you, and be there to guide you through this incredibly special and important time.

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### When should we book a celebrant?

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Most professional celebrants are busy and get booked up quickly, so as soon as you've settled on a date you'll want to confirm your celebrant and secure the date with them.

### Where can we get married?

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Pretty much anywhere! It can be at your home, at someone else's home, in a park or at a function centre. The options are endless. Sometimes a permit may be required (eg council land), but if there's a place that is special to you, then it will be even more meaningful to choose that location as the place you say "I do".

### What documents do we need?

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You will need to provide:

- Evidence of date and place of birth (passport, birth certificate)
- Proof of identification (passport, driver licence)
- Evidence of any and all previous marriages ending (divorce order, decree absolute, death certificate)



If you can't locate these documents, you can contact Births Deaths & Marriages in the relevant State, or jump on the Commonwealth Courts portal for help.

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### Can we add religious wording?

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Yep. You are welcome to add religious or spiritual wording to the ceremony. Celebrants are not permitted to conduct religious weddings, but we can certainly include readings or scriptures if you wish.

### Do we have to attend "marriage training"?

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No, this is not a requirement. Some religious bodies may suggest this, but it is not necessary for civil marriage ceremonies.

I can provide you with information on these types of services, should you wish to attend.

### What about witnesses?

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You will need two adult witnesses. It doesn't matter who, as long as they are over the age of 18 and have witnessed the ceremony.

### What will you wear?

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You're the focus. So I will wear something neutral and make sure it complements you and your bridal party (if you have one). If you have any special requests for colours I should avoid (or adopt), make sure you let me know.

### Can we write our own vows?

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Definitely! And I totally encourage this. It can be daunting getting all of those words onto paper, but I've prepared a DIY Vows guide to help you get the ball rolling and the creativity flowing.

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### What happens if we postpone?

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Things happen, right? If the celebrant you booked is not available on the new date, the Notice of Intended Marriage can be transferred to another celebrant. Most of us have a network of other celebrants we can refer you to should the need arise.

### How long will the ceremony take?

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Usually between 15 and 30 minutes, including signing the register and certificates. It really depends on how much you want to include in the ceremony.

### What if we need to marry quickly?

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There are certain circumstances where permission may be granted to marry with less than a month's notice. Contact me for more information about this.

### How do I change my name?

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There is no requirement to change your name after you get married. But if you wish to do so, you will need to wait until you get the legal marriage certificate from Births Deaths & Marriages. (The certificate issued to you on the day you get married is not a legal document and won't be accepted as an identification document.)

There are services who can simplify the process, such as [easynamechange.com.au](http://easynamechange.com.au)

