



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

Access to Justice Division

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR MARRIAGE CELEBRANTS

(regulation 37L)

1. APPLICATION OF THIS CODE OF PRACTICE

This Code of Practice applies to marriage celebrants (being persons registered under Subdivision C of Division 1 of Part IV of the *Marriage Act 1961*).

Note: Under paragraph 39I(1)(b) of the *Marriage Act 1961*, if the Registrar of Marriage Celebrants is satisfied that a marriage celebrant has not complied with an obligation under section 39G of that Act, including this Code of Practice, the Registrar may take disciplinary measures against the marriage celebrant.

2. HIGH STANDARD OF SERVICE

A marriage celebrant must maintain a high standard of service in his or her professional conduct and practice.

3. RECOGNITION OF SIGNIFICANCE OF MARRIAGE

A marriage celebrant must recognise the social, cultural and legal significance of marriage and the marriage ceremony in the Australian community, and the importance of strong and respectful family relationships.

4. COMPLIANCE WITH THE MARRIAGE ACT AND OTHER LAWS

A marriage celebrant must:

- (a) solemnize marriages according to the legal requirements of the *Marriage Act 1961* (Cth); and
- (b) observe the laws of the Commonwealth and of the State or Territory where the marriage is to be solemnized; and
- (c) prevent and avoid unlawful discrimination in the provision of marriage celebrancy services.

(k) ensure that all relevant documents are completed and sent to the appropriate registering authority within 14 days after the marriage ceremony, as required by section 50 of the *Marriage Act 1961*;

(l) in relation to the provision of marriage services, accept evaluative comment from the parties, and use any comments to improve performance;

(m) give the parties information about how to notify the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department of any concerns or complaints they may have regarding the marriage services provided by the marriage celebrant.

6. KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS SERVICES

A marriage celebrant must:

(a) maintain an up-to-date knowledge about appropriate family relationships services in the community; and

(b) inform parties about the range of information and services available to them to enhance, and sustain them throughout, their relationship.