



Wedding Ceremonies

In England you can get married at a religious venue, at an approved premises or have a non-legal ceremony at any location.

Religious ceremony

If you want an Anglican wedding, the church has the right to marry you without involving the Registrar's Office. Generally one of you needs to have a connection to the parish where you want to be married. If you have that connection you either need a Common Licence or Banns will be read in the church. You need to speak to your local vicar about whether you need a Common Licence and also about the fees they will charge.

What is a connection with the parish?

You have a connection if one of you:

- has lived in the parish for at least 15 days immediately before applying for the licence.
- has lived in the parish for at least 6 months at any time.
- was confirmed in the parish.
- was prepared for confirmation in the parish.
- has attended church services in the parish for at least 6 months.
- has a grandparent or parent who was married in the parish.
- has a parent who attended church services or lived in the parish for at least 6 months.

What if we have no connection with the parish?

You might qualify for a special licence, which is granted by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

What about non Anglican religious ceremonies?

Any other church or religious ceremony in England must be approved by the Registrar's Office. The person conducting the ceremony must be recognised by the Registrar to conduct marriages. Most synagogues, temples and mosques have a person who is authorised by the State to check that civil requirements are met and who can register a wedding once it has taken place.

Registry Office weddings

You can get married in any Registry Office in England if you have the necessary residency requirements and you give notice of marriage between 12 months and 28 days before the wedding date.



Marriage at Private Premises

The rules for marriage now apply to same sex couples who can either get married or convert an existing civil partnership.

You can also get legally married in any Approved Premises. The ceremony is carried out by a Registrar from the Registrar's Office local to the Approved Premises. Ever After at Lower Grenofen is an Approved Premises for the Tavistock area.

Civil partnerships

This is a legal ceremony only available for same sex couples. The legal requirements are the same as for civil ceremonies.

Booking your date

There are 2 steps to booking the Registrar for a wedding ceremony at Approved Premises.

The first is to book your date with the Registrars office local to the Approved Premises. Your Approved Premises cannot book the date for you, it must be done by one of you. For Ever After at Lower Grenofen our local office is Tavistock, which has a central office in Exeter. You can book your date and time over the phone for a fee of £50, and you can do this as far in advance as you like. Saturdays in the summer are obviously the most popular dates so booking early is advised. You need to know what time you want to get married when you phone to reserve your date. Your £50 fee is deductible from the final Registrar's fee.

The number to call is 0345 155 1002.

Legal requirements

The second step is to produce the legal documents required for Register Office marriages, Civil Ceremonies and Civil Partnerships.

You need to apply to your Registrar's Office to give

notice to marry. If you live in Devon, you can make an appointment at any of the 8 Registration Offices. You must have lived in Devon for at least 8 days before you give notice.

You must both attend the Registrar's Office in person to give notice of your intention to marry. If you live in different districts, you need to give notice separately.

You can't give more than 12 months' notice to marry which is why it is best to reserve your date with the Tavistock Registrars first and as early as possible. You can't give less than 28 days notice.

If you don't live in Devon but you want to marry in Devon, you need to apply to your own registration District (where you have lived for at least 7 days), and you will be given a Marriage Authority to give to the Registrar of Devon.

The notice of marriage is for the particular venue named on the notice. You can change the date of your wedding but you can't change the location without a fresh notice and new fees.

Documents you must produce

In Devon you must take proof of name, age, nationality and residency. Original documents can be taken to the Registrar's office to provide that proof and give notice of marriage:

Name and nationality

- Valid British/EU passport.
- A full birth certificate and one other form of ID.
- Certificate of registration or naturalisation.
- If you don't have a valid passport you will need proof of nationality of yourself and your mother - check with the Registrar's office which documents you might need to take with you.

Residency

- UK/EEA driving licence.
- A bill dated within the last 3 months.
- Mortgage statement within the last 12 months.
- Bank statement within the last month.



- Current tenancy agreement.
- Council tax bill in the last 12 months.

Other documents

- If you have been married before, a decree absolute, death certificate or dissolution of civil partnership.
- If you have changed your name by deed poll or statutory declaration, the original of that document.

Fee

- £35 fee per person by either cash, cheque, or card.

Further fees

There is a further fee to pay for the ceremony, and in Devon those fees are as follows:

Ceremony at the Registry Office from Monday to Saturday

Fee payable on the day:

Up to 15 minutes with 2 guests	£46
Up to 30 minutes with more than 2 guests	£100

Ceremony at Approved Premises

Fee payable to the Registrar 2 months in advance:

Monday to Friday to 6 pm	£425
Saturday to 6 pm	£450
Sunday or Bank holiday to 6 pm	£500
Any day 6 pm - 8 pm	£550
Any day 8 pm to midnight	£750

Non legal Marriage Ceremony

In England you can get married in any kind of ceremony you like so long as you do not need it to be legally binding. These marriage ceremonies are often called ‘humanist weddings’ although you do not need to have a humanist to conduct the ceremony and the celebrant need not be licensed.

You can design the ceremony as you wish, you might have a hand tying ceremony, a woodland celebration, write your own vows, have your own music, have a blessing.

If you want to have an experienced wedding celebrant, there are plenty to choose from. Their fees vary but expect to pay about £400 - £500.

We’re happy to recommend a wedding celebrant if that’s helpful