**Registrar Ceremonies – Frequently Asked Questions**

**Is it a legal ceremony?**

Yes - a ceremony – either marriage or civil partnership which is conducted by a Registrar is legally binding.

**Do I get a choice of words?**

Yes – there are certain words which you have to say – these are called the Declaratory and Contracting words, but you do get to choose which version you wish to say.

**Can I have extra vows?**

Yes. Depending upon the type of ceremony you book, you can include personal vows and readings although these cannot contain any religious elements.

**Do I need to learn the words?**

No – the Registrar will guide you through the necessary wording in very small chunks – ie 2 or 3 words at a time.

**Can I have music included?**

Yes – if it is not a religious hymn or prayer.

**Do I have to have my marriage ceremony at the Register Office for it to be legal?**

No – there are many different venues that are licenced for Marriage ceremonies. Each local authority will be able to provide a list of approved premises.

**What if I want to meet with the Registrar beforehand?**

If you wish to meet with the Registrar or discuss the logistics of the ceremony prior to the day, then this can be accommodated.

**Will I get a certificate?**

Once the ceremony has taken place, the event is electronically registered, a marriage/civil partnership certificate can then be purchased. This certificate can be used as evidence of the marriage/civil partnership and further copies can be purchased if necessary.

**What if I lose my certificate?**

There is no time limit for requesting certificates and copies can be purchased years later if required.

**How many witnesses will I need?**

You will need to have a minimum of 2 witnesses but there is the option to have up to 4 (depending upon the venue)

**Can I involve my children?**

Yes, you can involve your children – some couples chose to do this by asking them to do a reading or by presenting the rings.

**I am concerned that it won’t feel special because other ceremonies are taking place before and after.**

The Registrars are very experienced and will be completely focused on your ceremony and not the ones before or after. We allow plenty of time to ensure that couples do not feel rushed.

**Can I have a legal ceremony outdoors?**

Yes, as long as the venue has a licence and the outdoor area has been approved as suitable.