

General Register Office

Marriage in a Civil or Religious Building (other than Church of England/Wales) after 3rd May 2021

What will these changes mean to you?

New marriage legislation means that the way a marriage is registered in England and Wales will change from 4th May 2021.

You will no longer sign a marriage register or be given a Marriage Certificate during the ceremony, instead you will sign a Marriage Schedule. This is a one-page document which contains the details of both people getting married which are needed to register a marriage

The Marriage Schedule will be provided by the Superintendent Registrar in the registration district of your marriage and will contain all the details required to complete a marriage registration.

From this date, in addition to father details, other parent details will be able to be recorded i.e. mother, step-parent.

Each person will still be required to give notice of marriage and the marriage ceremony will remain the same, it is only the way in which a marriage is registered that will change.

How will you get the Marriage Schedule?

The Marriage Schedule will be provided by the Superintendent Registrar in the registration district of your marriage.

- If you are marrying in a civil or religious ceremony, as now, you will still be required to give a notice of marriage, at the register office in the district where you have spent the preceding 7 days.
- The schedule will be issued by the Superintendent Registrar following the 28 day waiting period.
- If you are not marrying in a religious building the Superintendent Registrar will retain your Schedule until the ceremony.
- If you are marrying in a religious ceremony, you must arrange for the Marriage Schedule to be collected and taken to the person who will perform the marriage at the religious building before your ceremony. The Superintendent Registrar will explain in more detail how this process will work.
- If you are marrying in the Church of England / Church in Wales you will need to contact the Church in the parish where you intend to marry.

Information included on the Marriage Schedule

A Marriage Schedule will include the details of each person getting married: name and surname, date of birth, condition, address and occupation.

You can record your mother, father or parents' details on the Marriage schedule and in the marriage registration. There is now provision to include step parents.

You will be encouraged to provide this information when you give notice. However, if you didn't give these details at your notice appointment, you can provide the information either prior to or on the day of your marriage

Signing the Marriage Schedule

After your marriage ceremony, you will be asked to check that the details contained in the Marriage Schedule are accurate, including spellings of names etc.

Once checked you, your witnesses and the registration officers or relevant person from the religious building will sign the Marriage Schedule.

How will your marriage registration be made?

If you marry in a civil ceremony the registration officer will keep the signed Marriage Schedule and add the details onto the electronic register at the register office.

If you marry in a religious ceremony, the relevant person from the religious building will return the completed, signed Marriage Schedule to the register office in the area where your marriage took place within **21 days** of your marriage. Once the completed, signed Marriage Schedule is received at the register office the details will be entered onto the electronic marriage register within the following 7 days; only then will a marriage certificate be available.

Why can't you sign a marriage register?

From 4th May 2021 paper marriage registers will no longer be used; instead a central electronic registration system will become the legal register. The change in the law means that the details of your marriage will be recorded on a Marriage Schedule. It is from this document that your marriage registration will be created.

When will you be able to obtain a Marriage Certificate?

A marriage certificate will only be issued after the details have been entered on to the electronic marriage register. This means that you will not be able to obtain a marriage certificate on the day of your marriage. This applies whether you marry in a civil ceremony or a religious ceremony.

Your marriage details will be entered onto the electronic registration register within 7 days of your signed Marriage Schedule being received at the register office, in the area where you got married.

How to obtain a marriage certificate.

Marriage certificates will be available from the register office in the area where your marriage took place.

To obtain a marriage certificate please contact

What to do if you lose your Marriage Schedule.

If you lose your Marriage Schedule before your ceremony, you should contact the Superintendent Registrar at the register office where the Marriage Schedule was issued.

Further questions?

If you have any questions that have not been answered in this leaflet, you should check the details on www.gov.uk website

If you cannot find the answer to your question you should contact the register office in the area of your marriage or contact the General Register Office on tel: 0300 123 1837 or email:

GROcasework@gro.gov.uk

Marriage certificates are also available from the General Register Office at www.gov.uk

<https://www.gov.uk/order-copy-birth-death-marriage-certificate>