

# CHANGES TO MARRIAGE LAW

from 4th May 2021



## The changes in brief:

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- The Marriage Register will be replaced by a marriage document / schedule
- Marriage certificates will no longer be issued on the wedding day
- All parents details can be included

**Changes will be introduced in England and Wales from 4th May 2021, that affect how all marriages are registered.**

Marriage will remain a verbal contract, formed when you say the legal words to each other in the presence of your witnesses and the registrars / religious officiant. But at the end of the ceremony you will no longer sign the marriage register. Instead you will sign a marriage document or schedule, which will be used to enter the information into an electronic register. Only after this, can a marriage certificate be issued to you.



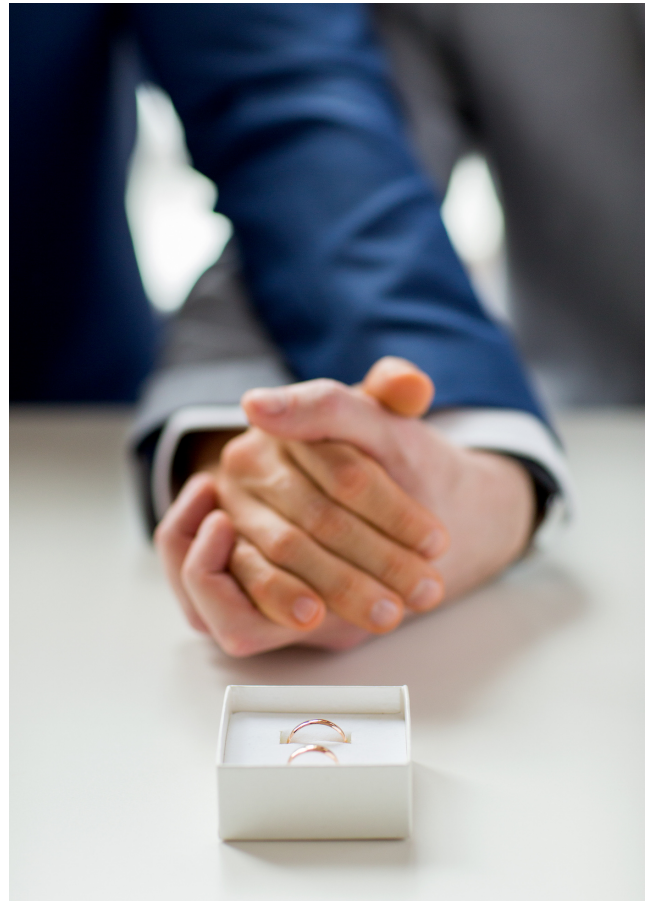
## The Marriage Schedule

The Marriage Schedule will contain the details of the couple getting married - name; date of birth; marital status; occupation; and address; along with where and when the marriage takes place.

You will also be able to include your mother, father and / or parent's details as well. This is recorded for family history purposes, and up until now only father's details have been included.

The Schedule will be prepared by the registrars in the district where you are marrying, and the information taken from the notice of your intention to marry. The registrars will bring it with them to the marriage venue. You, your witnesses and the registrars will sign the Schedule at the end of the wedding ceremony.

After the ceremony the registrar will record the information from the Schedule onto the electronic register.



## The Marriage Certificate

The Marriage Certificate can only be issued after the information has been entered onto the electronic register. Therefore a marriage certificate will **not** be issued to you on the day of your marriage, but will be issued and sent to you via tracked delivery, within 7 days of your wedding day.

The registrar will email you to let you know the certificate(s) have been issued and dispatched. These can be sent to an address of your choice.



## Getting married in a Church of England

For those couples getting married in a Church of England in Westminster, the Minister at the church where your wedding will take place will provide a Marriage Document for you to sign at the end of the ceremony. This will contain the same information as the Marriage Schedule.

This Marriage Document will need to be delivered to us at the Register Office, to allow us to register the marriage and issue you with your marriage certificates. Please make arrangements with the Minister for delivery of the original Document to us for registration. Certificates can then be ordered online (see below for details) and will be issued within 7 days of receiving the Marriage Document.

There may be some circumstances where those marrying in a Church of England are required to give notice of intention to marry, rather than having Banns called. Your Minister will be able to advise you of this. In these circumstances you will need to follow the process for getting married in another religious building.

## Getting married in another religious building

For those couples getting married in a religious ceremony at a non CoE church or other religious venue in Westminster, you will need to make arrangements with us for the delivery of the Marriage Schedule to your religious officiant (unless registrars are booked to attend the ceremony).

Following the marriage, the Schedule will need to be delivered to us at the Register Office, to allow us to register the marriage and issue you with your marriage certificates. Please make arrangements with your religious officiant for the Schedule to be returned to us for registration. Certificates can then be ordered online (see below for details) and will be issued within 7 days of receiving the Marriage Schedule.



# MARRIAGE REGISTRATION PROCESS



## Address for return of Marriage Schedule or Document

Westminster Register Office  
317 Harrow Road, London W9 3RJ

Open Mon to Fri 9am to 4pm

## Certificate ordering online

[www.westminster.gov.uk](http://www.westminster.gov.uk)

## More information at

[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

or contact us [registeroffice@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:registeroffice@westminster.gov.uk)

020 7641 7500