

Overseas Marriage Information Sheet

Couples from overseas coming to Australia to get married

Many couples come to Australia from overseas to marry here in Australia and what a wonderful way to get married, whilst on holiday, marrying in Sydney's beautiful Royal Botanic Gardens, on our lovely beaches or surrounding harbour parks, at your Sydney hotel or out cruising on Sydney Harbour.

I marry couples from all around the world, such as UK, Europe, South Africa, Asia, USA, New Zealand, South America and Japan, and am able to assist in organising everything for you - the legal paperwork and your personally written ceremony. Other wedding suppliers may be found on my resources page. Please feel free to email your requirements.

Are you in the process of immigration?

Letter for Immigration: If either of you are in the process of coming to Australia to be married on a Fiancé or Spouse Visa, then I am able to provide the necessary letter for Immigration. Refer to the Immigration page on this website. More information is available from Department of Home Affairs www.homeaffairs.gov.au

If you live interstate or in another country and plan to marry in Sydney - what is the process?

If you are coming to Sydney to get married from interstate or from another country, you will need to:

- Firstly, book in a time and date with me as soon as you can. Please email me for costs and fees - firm bookings can only be made by paying a deposit. See my payments page.

www.nswcelebrant.com.au

I accept cash, EFTPOS, credit card (Visa and MasterCard), PayPal and direct deposit.

- You will then need to complete and have witnessed, the Notice of Intended Marriage, NO LESS than one calendar month prior to marriage. I can email this form to you but it is also available from the Australian Consulate/High Commission or Foreign Affairs in your country of residence.

As soon as this is completed you need to mail it to me for lodgement.

What is the cost?

Please email me to discuss your requirements so I can give you exact costing and exactly what my fee covers.

What are the legal requirements?

- You must both be over the age of 18 years
- If you were born outside Australia, you must show your overseas passport or birth certificate (translated into English if required) to the celebrant, if you were born in Australia you must produce your birth certificate or a passport.
- If you have been married previously, you need to provide a certified copy of your Divorce Certificate or Death Certificate of former spouse.
- You will need to have 2 witnesses to attend your ceremony – They must be over eighteen.
- The Notice of Intended Marriage must be witnessed NO LESS than one calendar month prior to the marriage and sent to the celebrant.
- You do **not** have to be in Australia for any specific period of time prior to marriage, providing of course the paperwork has been correctly completed prior to arrival.

After your marriage

British Commonwealth residents:

After your marriage, all couples will need to obtain a registered copy of their Marriage Certificate. Please visit my information page www.nswcelebrant.sydney/information.html.

Residents from all other countries:

If you live in a non-British Commonwealth country, as well as obtaining your Registered Marriage Certificate, you will also need to obtain an Apostile stamp from the Dept of Foreign Affairs in Sydney, so you can advise your country's authorities or if it is a requirement, to register your marriage in your country of residence. I can arrange all this for you.

Note: *You can do all this yourselves however you must allow at least 3 working days in Sydney after your marriage to organise this.*

What is a civil marriage celebrant?

A Civil Marriage Celebrant is someone who has been appointed by the Australian Commonwealth Attorney General to solemnise marriages at any location in Australia.

How soon can we get married?

You can get married one calendar month after the celebrant receives the Notice of Intended Marriage (valid for eighteen months).

What do we do next?

You must be at least 18 years of age to marry in Australia. Before you can be married, Australian law requires you to complete a Notice of Intended Marriage (which I will provide) or you can print the NOIM from my website www.nswcelebrant.sydney and have it signed by an authorised person.

What documents do we need to bring?

I must sight your original birth certificates or authorised extract or a passport. If you were born overseas and can't produce your birth certificate, your overseas passport will be accepted. If either of you have been married before, I must sight an original copy of your Decree Absolute, Certificate of Divorce, annulment certificate or the death certificate of your former spouse, whichever is applicable. If you were born in Australia you must provide a copy of your birth certificate, or Australian passport is accepted. *These documents must be produced before the marriage can take place.*

For identification purposes I will need to sight your driver's licence or other photo ID, e.g. Passport.

Anything else to sign?

A week before your wedding you need to sign a declaration stating that there is no legal impediment to the marriage between yourself and your intended spouse. On the day of your wedding, after the ceremony, you sign the wedding register and marriage certificates. You will also need two witnesses who are over the age of eighteen.

Where can we get married?

Your wedding can be held just about anywhere: beaches, parks, gardens, private homes, boats or restaurants. I will be happy to make some suggestions if you are unsure of a location. If you choose an outside location ensure you have an alternate venue in-case of bad weather. Contact the local council for any outside venues as some of them only charge if you have more than thirty people attending. Some Councils don't allow PA systems, amplified sound or marquees, so be sure to check before you book.

I am based in Sydney's North West, which is close to most areas of Sydney. I am available for ceremonies in the Sydney Metropolitan Area, Blue Mountains, Central Coast, South Coast and beyond.

We live overseas/interstate, can we get married in Sydney during our holiday?

Yes, you can, providing all the legal requirements are met. The Notice of Intended Marriage must be received by me no less than one calendar month and one day prior to the wedding. The details can be arranged via email, telephone and fax. Your plans can be finalised when you arrive in the country/state. Bookings will only be accepted with a deposit of A\$100.00. I accept Cash, EFTPOS (Visa, Mastercard), PayPal, Money Order, Bank Draft or Direct Deposit.

The steps are:

- Complete a Notice of Intended Marriage - I can email this to you or it can be obtained from any Australian Embassy world wide or on-line from my website.
- Have your signatures witnessed by an Australian Consulate official or Notary Public. If in Australia then a Justice of the Peace or Authorised person.
- Fax or email me a copy of the NOIM with copies of your supporting documents.
- Send the originals by registered mail or bring with you. (I must sight the original documents before the marriage can proceed).
- If you were born outside Australia, you must provide your birth certificate **or** overseas passport.
- If you were born in Australia, you **must** provide your birth certificate or a passport.
- If either of you have been previously married, you need to provide the original or certified copy of your Divorce Certificate or Death Certificate of former spouse.
- You must both be over the age of eighteen.
- You will need two witnesses over the age of eighteen to be present on the day.

* **Fiancé Visa** - If your fiancé wishes to enter Australia under the prospective marriage (fiancé) plan, I will supply a suitable letter for the Australian Consulate along with a copy of the Notice of Intended Marriage. Only one person needs to come to the initial interview to complete the legal forms. For couples who are overseas prior to the wedding, all the arrangements can be completed via telephone, email or by post. More information is available from Department of Home Affairs www.homeaffairs.gov.au

After the Wedding

British Commonwealth residents will need a registered copy of their marriage certificate. I will register your marriage on-line on the same day as your wedding. You can apply for the copy the next working day from the NSW Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages at their Chippendale or Parramatta offices -Telephone: 13 77 88. Please visit my information page www.nswcelebrant.sydney/information.html.

Residents from other countries will need a registered copy of their marriage certificate and also an Apostille stamp from the Department of Foreign Affairs in Sydney, Level 7, 26 Lee Street, Sydney NSW 2000 or follow the link www.dfat.gov.au/sydney to be able to register the marriage in your country of residence. Please allow at least two working days after your marriage to organise this.

How much does it cost?

My fee for a standard wedding is \$500.00*. Extra charges may apply for long distance travel, water taxi fees if ceremony is on a boat, national park entry fees. A booking fee/deposit of \$100.00 is required when signing the Notice of Intended Marriage. The deposit/booking fee cover the costs of completing all legal documentation, *statutory declarations, *letters for immigration department and securing my services for the day of your wedding. (* if required)

See my payments page. www.nswcelebrant.sydney/payments.html

How do I change my name?

Please see www.afterthewedding.com.au for information. I register your marriage the same day as the ceremony. You will also need a registered copy of your marriage certificate to prove that you are married. This can be obtained from the NSW Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages at the Chippendale or Parramatta offices. Telephone: 13 77 88. Please visit my information page www.nswcelebrant.sydney/information.html.

Find me on Facebook & Twitter (nswcelebrant)



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