WEDDING DOCUMENTATION

**The forms you require may be downloaded from various government websites (referenced as appropriate), or I can provide them.**

To legalise your marriage you will need the following:

NOTICE OF INTENDED MARRIAGE (NIM) Form 13

Complete this form no more than 18 months prior, or no less than one calendar month before the Ceremony. Download the Notice of Intended Marriage (NIM) from [www.ag.gov.au/celebrants](http://www.ag.gov.au/celebrants) alternatively I can provide the form which may be completed at our meeting. As your Celebrant I would normally witness your signatures, however there may be circumstances where another authorised witness performs this function. This may arise because you have changed Celebrant, or if you are interstate or overseas you would access a notary public as witness. See the NIM for possible witnesses. In these circumstances discussions beforehand are appropriate.

IDENTIFICATION

I need to see your **original** birth certificates or passports. If you need to get an official copy of your birth certificate you can apply through Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages (BDM): [www.bdm.dotag.wa.gov.au](http://www.bdm.dotag.wa.gov.au) (or the state in which you were born). If born overseas you may provide an officially translated copy of your birth certificate. For official translations refer NAATI. [www.naati.com.au](http://www.naati.com.au)

PREVIOUS MARRIAGE

Before you can enter into another marriage you will need to provide the **original document**, either of

* proof of divorce, obtainable through Family Law Court [enquiries@familylawcourts.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@familylawcourts.gov.au) , or
* a death certificate for previous spouse, from Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages.

DECLARATION OF NO LEGAL IMPEDIMENT TO MARRIAGE

This form will be signed and witnessed by me at a meeting prior to the wedding ceremony taking place. Civil Celebrants don’t ask during the ceremony whether there is any reason why these two should not be joined in matrimony.

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE/ CHANGE OF NAME & ID REQUIREMENTS

During the Ceremony I award a presentation Certificate of Marriage on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia.

*If the bride wishes to change her name* on various documents such as passport, drivers licence, she needs a **Marriage Certificate issued by BDM** by the state in which the marriage takes place. You can access the application form on [www.bdm.dotag.wa.gov.au](http://www.bdm.dotag.wa.gov.au)

You will need to make payment for this Certificate to BDM and I’m happy to include your application and payment, with supporting marriage documentation.

On the application to BDM for their Marriage Certificate you will need to provide 3x proof of ID documents, including 1 photo ID, all which need to be authenticated – which I can do. I will send these along with the other marriage documents to BDM within 14 days of the wedding taking place. This application for a Marriage Certificate issued by BDM is not compulsory and not included in my standard fee, but a service I am happy to offer.

WITNESSES

You will need two witnesses on the day over the age of 18 years and of sober mind, for signing the Marriage Certificates & Register. These are often the groomsmen/ best man and the bridesmaid/ maid of honour, but not necessarily.

OVERSEAS APPLICANTS

One of you may be in the process of applying for a Fiancee Visa. I will write a supporting letter if required.

Advice for Immigration is to be obtained through an appropriately qualified lawyer or migration agent. I can refer you if necessary to competent migration agents.

Apostille: if you need authentication of a marriage certificate issued by BDM it’s obtainable through the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trading (DFAT). Check with your country’s authorised representative (Consul, High Commission, Embassy) to ascertain whether this is required for your marriage to be recognised in your country. I am happy to help with the process should you need it.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

PRE-MARITAL COUNSELLING

The Attorney General’s Department strongly advises pre-marital counselling. You may obtain this service through your own contacts, alternatively ask me for a short list of counsellors in your area. AB