

## Planning your event – Step by Step

Before you are married there are certain legal requirements that your church or celebrant can help you with.

Officially, you must lodge a Notice of Intended Marriage at least one month and one day, but not earlier than six months, prior to the wedding date. Your church leader, celebrant or the registry office can provide you with the notice and you should lodge it with them once you have completed the details.

Once you have completed your notice of intended marriage, you have started the legal marriage process.

### **When you lodge the notice, you will need to supply the following:**

- ♥ Birth certificates, extracts of birth certificates, passports or Australia naturalization certificates for identification.
- ♥ A decree absolute or death certificate as proof that any previous marriage has been terminated.

The ceremony must be witnessed by two people over the age of 18 years, and the married couple and the witnesses will sign the documents immediately following the ceremony.

You must include on the notice the name of the person who will conduct your ceremony and unless extenuating circumstances arise, you are obliged to be married by the person named.

The religious church leader or celebrant named is obliged to either be at your wedding or provide a replacement of your choice if necessary. This helps ensure your marriage will go ahead even if the church leader or celebrant is unable to attend.

### **Taxation and Making a Will:**

Taxation can change after you are married. As taxation is an involved issue, with many facets, it is best to contact the Australia Taxation Office, a tax agent or your accountant to evaluate how your tax arrangements will be affected by your marriage.

Making a will is an important part of marriage. If you are married and die without a will, your spouse will inherit all or part of your property. Additionally, any will made previous to your marriage will usually no longer apply. It is best to meet with a solicitor prior to your marriage to discuss how a new will can be finalized once you are officially married.



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