

## Choosing Your Celebrant

Congratulations on your engagement.

As you plan your special day you will find there are a lot of important decisions to be made but none more important than the choice of your marriage celebrant. The marriage ceremony is the first part of your wedding day. Your marriage celebrant writes and presents the ceremony. Consequently she/he sets the tone for the entire day.

How do you go about choosing the right celebrant for your day?

Firstly, I think it is wise to make sure your celebrant is a member of one of the professional associations set up to maintain standards and keep members up to date with the latest legislation and regulations.

Secondly, and probably most importantly choose a celebrant that you feel comfortable with. If you can build a rapport with your celebrant you will get the best out of her and she will get the best out of you on the day. I like to have at least two face to face meetings with my brides and grooms for that very reason. Ask questions like, "How many weddings have you performed" or "Do you have a video of one of your ceremonies that I can look at?" Ask to see copies of feedback forms. Otherwise, you have no way of knowing what you are getting.

Thirdly: Your guests are there to see and hear your ceremony. Make sure your celebrant has a reliable PA system or has access to one.

Fourthly, check that your celebrant has Public Liability Insurance.

There are only two things you must have in your marriage ceremony to make it legal. For the remainder you can pretty much please yourself. Ask your prospective celebrant if she has a range of choices for you to select from. I have a resources folder in which I have a large selection of different vows, readings, poems and what I call ceremonies within the ceremony. When we start putting the ceremony together I give the prospective bride and groom a copy of the folder with all the choices.

Avoid the temptation to choose your celebrant primarily on price. First check that she provides what you want then check that the price is within your budget.

With the right celebrant your day is off to the best possible start. You will be able to relax and enjoy what is, after all, your special day.