



What is the legal marrying age in Australia?

You must be at least 18 years of age to marry in Australia. However parties under 18 (but over 16), can seek an exception through a court order and parental consent.

How much notice do we have to give of our intention to marry?

Your first legal form has to be lodged with your marriage celebrant no later than one month and one day before your wedding. For those of you who love to be organised, you can lodge your documents up to a maximum of 18 months prior to your ceremony.

What happens at my initial meeting with my celebrant?

There is no single approach to the way celebrants work with their clients. However, generally speaking, the first meeting is a no-obligation meeting to see if the celebrant is a good fit for you. Once you book your celebrant, you will be required to complete a [Notice of Intended Marriage \(NOIM\)](#) This is the first of a series of forms that are a Government requirement.

What documents do you need to sight for the NOIM?

If you are an Australian born citizen you must provide your birth certificate. If you were born outside of Australia, you are required to show your birth certificate or your passport from the country of your birth. Although this does not have to be a current passport, it must not be a cancelled passport.

In the case of a second marriage where you are divorced or a previous spouse is deceased, original divorce documents or death certificate must be provided.

We would like to elope; can it just be the two of us at our wedding and no one else?

It is a legal requirement for two people over the age of 18 years to be present at your marriage to act as witnesses to the event.

What happens if our celebrant gets sick and can't perform our wedding?

There are many reasons why your celebrant should part of a professional network, especially in times like this. In the unfortunate event that this occurs, your celebrant will contact other celebrants in their network who can step in at short notice or, if there is enough lead time they can provide a selection of alternate celebrants for you to choose from.

What do I need to do to change my surname after marriage?

It is not mandatory for you to change your name after you marry, however if you wish to this can be done through the presenting of your registered marriage certificate as proof of marriage and your new surname. This [registered Married Certificate](#) is not the one given to you at your ceremony; it is a separate, legally registered document that is applied for through Births Deaths and Marriages, Victoria.

Can we have a surprise wedding?

In Australia, official paperwork stating your intention to marry must be lodged one month and one day before your wedding. The wedding can certainly be a surprise for your guests, but not for one of you 😊