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Giving notice

Last Modified March 30, 2020



Customer information regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19) updated 24 March 2020

Please read the following information if you have booked a ceremony or appointment at The Wedding Chapel or an approved venue.

Coming to The Wedding Chapel (Festival House)

The Wedding Chapel is **closed to the public** from Tuesday 24 March until further notice. Contact can still be made via email ceremonies@blackpool.gov.uk and phone 01253 477 177

Unfortunately, all forthcoming ceremonies will now have to be postponed, as will pre-booked notice appointments. If you have a ceremony booked, our team will be making contact with you shortly.

Forthcoming Ceremonies

You will not lose your ceremony fee if you have to postpone due to the advice of the Government. If you have a ceremony booked with us in the next few weeks, our staff will be getting in touch with you. If you are trying to contact us, please be patient as we are experiencing an increased number of enquiries. If you can't get through email <mailto:ceremonies@blackpool.gov.uk> and provide your phone number and someone will call you back.

Notice appointments and future ceremony bookings

We are taking no bookings for future notice appointments or ceremonies until further notice. Contact us if you need urgent advice.

" Please be aware that the situation is ever evolving and this guidance may need to be updated in line with government guidance as and when it is issued "

Giving a notice of Marriage or Civil Partnership

The notice period was **extended by law** on 2 March 2015. Instead of 15 days, you now have to **wait 28 days** before you can marry

The law now also insists on specific documents to provide at your notice appointment. Make sure you read this list carefully otherwise you may not be able to give notice

Download a copy of the Documents required when giving notice

To make an appointment to give notice telephone us on 01253 477177 or email us on ceremonies@blackpool.gov.uk.

The fee is £35 each

- If you want to get married or form a civil partnership you must give notice in the registration district where you have lived for the previous eight days, regardless of where you intend to marry.
- A Superintendent Registrar and Registrar, or an Authorised Person needs to be present at all marriages and civil partnerships, except those at a church belonging to the Church of England. It is therefore important you make sure the Registrars are available before you confirm any other arrangements.
- To give a notice with the Blackpool Registration Service, you must live in a residence where the Council Tax is payable to Blackpool Council. If you reside outside of Blackpool, use this search facility to find your [local registration service](#).

- The earliest date you can give notice is 12 months in advance of the ceremony. Ensure you allow enough time before your ceremony to give notice; during busy periods we sometimes cannot offer appointments for 4 weeks.
- The law changed on 2 March 2015 extending the notice period from 15 days to **28 days**. We therefore recommend giving notice at the earliest opportunity; two months before your intended ceremony at the very latest.

What is a Notice of Marriage?

The notice of marriage or civil partnership is a legal statement which you must sign. If you plan to be married in the Church of England, you should see your local vicar who will arrange for the Banns of Marriage to be published.

A notice states the name, age, marital status, address, occupation and nationality of the people involved. It also states the intended venue for the ceremony.

Notices are displayed on the public notice boards of the Registration District for 28 days. Only then can the 'authorities for marriage' or civil partnership 'schedule' be issued. After 28 days (or in some cases 70 days if one or both parties is a foreign national) the authorities are issued in the district office where the ceremony is taking place. Your ceremony cannot take place without them.

The 'authorities for marriage' or 'schedule' are only valid for use in the venue stated, so it's vital that you're certain of the place in which you plan to be married or form a civil partnership at the time of giving notice. If you need to change the venue after giving notice, you will be required to give fresh notices stating the new venue and pay another fee. A notice of marriage or civil partnership is valid for 12 months only.

If you are not able to visit the registration service to give notice because of long term or serious illness, contact us for further information.

Where to give notice

If you live in Blackpool, you should give notice at:

- The Wedding Chapel, People's Promenade, Blackpool. FY1 1AP
- Appointments are Tuesday to Thursday only
- To make an appointment phone us on 01253 477177 or email us on ceremonies@blackpool.gov.uk.

If you reside outside of Blackpool, use this search facility to find your [local registration service](#).

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