

Short Guide to the Civil Marriage Process on Alderney under the new Guernsey Marriage Law

Decide on a who you want to conduct the Wedding :

- Greffier or Deputy Registrar (this will be a very short ceremony at the Court House in office hours, Monday to Friday 0900 - 1600)
- Authorised Civil Celebrant (This can be on any day, at any time and on land, sea or in the air anywhere in the Bailiwick of Guernsey with land owner's permission)

If you decide on an Authorised Civil Celebrant:

1. Make your preliminary decisions on:

- Date
- Time
- Location (If your first choice location is outside then a second inside location must be chosen in case of bad weather, this cannot be the Court House) *The land owner or property owner's permission must be obtained*

2. Contact your chosen Authorised Civil Celebrant

(Details of all possibilities are on the Alderney Court Website <http://www.courtofalderney.gg>)

Your Civil Celebrant will offer you a complimentary initial meeting to outline the process and give you further advice on how to proceed. They must by law outline their cost structure. Once you have agreed and signed contracts your civil celebrant will ensure that you are following all the guidelines as well as writing your Wedding service script.

3. Complete and submit application for Notice of Marriage, ideally around 3 months before the wedding, but it can be up to 12 months ahead.

This is done by emailing Wedding@guernseyroyalcourt.gg

The absolute minimum amount of time that an application can be submitted is 23 days before the Wedding Day. (The Notice of Marriage has to be published for 21 consecutive days before the Wedding on the Royal Court of Guernsey Website (www.guernseyroyalcourt.gg))

4. Make an appointment for an interview in person with the Greffier at the Court of Alderney no longer than 1 working day before the Wedding (ideally 3 days in case of bad weather delaying travel to Alderney)

Interviews should be booked before you travel and should take place as soon after your arrival into Alderney as possible. The very latest an interview can take place is the last working day before the date you are due to get married.

It is important to note that travel to the Island can be disrupted due to weather and technical problems and you should ensure that you arrive in Alderney in sufficient time in advance of the wedding day to ensure that all the legal requirements are met.

During the interview the hard copy original documents that were submitted electronically with the initial application are checked to ensure they are authentic. You may also be interviewed separately to ensure that you are in a genuine relationship and that you are both consenting to the proposed marriage.

Once this interview has taken place and the Greffier is satisfied that there are no impediments to your marriage the licence which gives the celebrant the authority to marry you can be issued.

If the meeting is being held more than six weeks before the intended date of marriage the Licence will usually not be issued until 6 weeks before the date of wedding.

The licence will be delivered to the celebrant who is conducting your ceremony prior to the marriage date (usually between 6 weeks to one month prior to the date of marriage).

5. After the Wedding the Civil Celebrant will return the register to the Royal Court in Guernsey for completion of paperwork.

Written by

Annabel Finding (FindingACelebrant.co.uk) and Lisa Sanders (AlderneyCelebrant.co.uk)

April 2021.