

What Couples Need to Do

New Civil Requirements for Marriage from 5th November 2007

(For distribution to couples seeking to marry in the Catholic Church)

- **Make an appointment** to meet with any Civil Registrar to give at least three months notice of your intention to marry in advance of your proposed date of marriage.
- In preparation for the meeting with the Registrar **meet with your local priest**, book your church and know the name of the priest who has agreed to celebrate your marriage (he is known in civil law as the Solemniser).
- You will need the following information and documentation for your **meeting with the Registrar**:
 - Photo identity (preferably a passport or driving license)
 - Names and dates of birth of witnesses
 - Name of the church where you wish to marry
 - Date of marriage
 - Name of priest who will officiate at your marriage
 - If either of you has been previously married you must provide the Civil Registrar with an original divorce decree or death certificate if widowed.
- Make sure you receive the **Marriage Registration Form (MRF)** from the Registrar and show it to the Solemniser who has agreed to marry you to ensure all the details are correct.
- Make a **verbal declaration of no civil impediment** before the Solemniser and your two witnesses not more than 2 days before your marriage. It usually takes place just as you arrive at the sanctuary area on the day of your marriage as the Rite of Marriage is about to begin.
- You must **return to any Civil Registrar's office the signed MRF/Form A** not later than 1 month after your marriage has been celebrated.

***Transitional arrangements** – if you have already given notice to the Registrar before the 5th November 2007 you will have to make sure the priest who is to celebrate your marriage is on the “List of Solemnisers” and make the verbal declaration of no civil impediment. However, you will use the Form A marriage form (the form that has been used up to now in Ireland) rather than the MRF.

*This is not an exhaustive summary of civil requirements.
For further information or clarification see www.groireland.ie*