

City Chambers Q&A

How many people can attend a marriage or Civil Partnership ceremony at the Registrar's Office?

- Alexander Suite - 36 guests (plus couple standing)
- European Room - 70 guests (plus couple standing)
- Council Chamber – 110 guests (plus couple standing)

Does this maximum number of attendees include children under 12 years of age?

Yes, children over the age of 2 are included in the maximum number of attendees.

Is there parking at the City Chambers?

There is **one** parking space for the **couple's vehicle only**, this is situated in the Quadrangle **for the duration of the ceremony only**, however this is subject to change. If parking is suspended, we will let you know as soon as we can. If you would like to use the space you will need to provide the car registration number, make and model at the time of lodging notice.

How do I access the Quadrangle during the Fringe Festival in August?

There is strictly no parking available in the Quadrangle during the whole month of August.

When I lodge notice what will happen with my documents?

They will remain in the office until your ceremony, you can arrange to collect earlier if you wish (by appointment) or enclose a pre-paid envelope for us to return.

If you lodge notice by appointment, they will normally be returned to you at this time.

Is there access for my disabled guest?

There is no disabled parking facility in the Quadrangle.

What time should my guests arrive?

Guests should arrive 15 minutes before your ceremony start time.

If you arrive late there may be the chance of rescheduling your booking.

Can my guests throw confetti?

No, unfortunately throwing confetti is an offence (Environmental Protection Act 1990).

Where is the nearest smoking area for my guests?

Smoking is not permitted within the City Chambers or in the Quadrangle

Can I play music at my ceremony?

Yes, you can choose to have music played for guest arrival, walking into the ceremony suite, signing the marriage schedule, exit music for when you are leaving the ceremony suite.

You can play music via our Bluetooth speaker through your own device. (phone, iPad etc)

Can a Piper pipe me into the room?

Pipers are not permitted inside the City Chambers however they can pipe you into the building from the doorway – please check with a member of staff that there are no other ceremonies taking place at the same time.

Can I be escorted into the marriage suite?

Yes – you can ask any one of your guests to escort you down the aisle. Alternatively, the couple can both walk in together.

Do I have to exchange rings?

No – many couples choose to exchange rings; however, you may want to leave this part out or exchange something other than rings.

Can I have a photographer?

Yes, you can have a photographer, the registrar will have a quick chat with your photographer just before the ceremony.

Can I have a videographer?

Yes, again the registrar will speak with the videographer before the ceremony. The videographer will not be allowed to set up any specialist equipment until 15 minutes before the ceremony. Cables and obstructions to exits and the aisle are not permitted.

Can I change the wording of the ceremony?

Yes, we encourage couples to personalise their wording to make the ceremony unique. We offer an amended ceremony booklet with suggestions of changes that you may wish to make.

Can I have a reading during the ceremony?

Yes, readings can be incorporated into your ceremony. Please submit a copy of the reading(s) with your notice forms and let us know who you have chosen to do this for you. We recommend no more than 2 – 3 readings.

Can I have an additional element to my ceremony?

Yes – Handfasting, drinking from the quaich, jumping the broom are all additional elements we have had in the past – the couple are required to provide the equipment.

Do I need to provide witnesses?

You are required by law to have two witnesses present at your ceremony who are 16 years of age or over and can understand the ceremony. The Registration Department is unable to provide witnesses for you. Your witnesses do not need to bring any ID documents on the day – unless your chosen witnesses look under the age of 16.

What is the dress code for a registrar's wedding?

There is no dress code, please wear what you feel comfortable in, we have some wedding parties who wear full wedding attire but others who come casual.

Can I use my own pen?

The marriage schedule needs to be signed in black fountain pen – you can of course use your own pen as long as it has black permanent ink.

Can we open a bottle of champagne to celebrate?

No food or drink can be consumed in any of our ceremony suites.

Can we cut a wedding cake?

No food or drink can be consumed in any of our ceremony suites.

Can we bring our dog?

Unfortunately only assistance dogs are permitted.

Difference between marriage and civil partnership in Scotland? [Marriage and civil partnership guide - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)