

# Oxford Diocesan Registry



## **Marriage Registration Changes (Not yet implemented)**

As some of you may be aware, the way in which marriages will be registered in the future is going to change significantly under Regulations due to be issued by the General Register Office following the implementation of the Civil Partnerships, Marriages and Deaths (Registration etc) Act 2019.

### *Marriage Document*

Marriage Registers and Certificates will no longer be used in churches. Instead, something called a 'Marriage Document' will be issued to the couple by members of the clergy following usual ecclesiastical preliminaries (Banns, Common Licence or Archbishop's Special Licence).

Following the wedding, the couple will be required to arrange for the Marriage Document to be delivered to a Civil Registrar's Office. The marriage will then be registered in a new electronic marriage register and a Marriage Certificate will be available for purchase from the local registration district or General Register Office. Failure to take the Marriage Document to be registered could result in a summary conviction and fine.

### *Training*

All clergy, including clergy who have permission to officiate and regularly help out in parishes by conducting weddings, will need to receive training in relation to the new process. Awareness and training will be provided through the General Register Office and Local Registration Service before the implementation date and support will be available after implementation. It is vital that you attend a session when dates are offered to ensure you understand the new process.

### *No Implementation Date at the present time*

Full details of the Regulations and how the process will work are still being formulated by the General Register Office. At present, we do not know when the new Regulations will come into force but discussions between the Church of England and the General Register Office are ongoing to ensure a smooth transition between the two systems of registration.

### *Going Forward*

We will keep you updated as soon as we receive further information regarding the timetable of proposed changes so please continue to check the Diocesan e-news or Legal Section of the website (<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/support-services/legal-diocesan-registry/#tab-id-2>).

**Sara Leader**

**Registry Manager**

Email: [sleader@wslaw.co.uk](mailto:sleader@wslaw.co.uk)

Phone: 01865 297211

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