



Initial Planning Information

Here are the initial basics that will help you with your planning:

To get married in New Zealand you must hold a valid marriage licence.

Before you apply for the marriage licence you must:

- Confirm your Marriage Celebrant or Registrar of Marriages that will be performing the ceremony
- Arrange a place for the ceremony. You should also choose an alternative venue as a backup in case weather or other unforeseen circumstances prevents you from marrying at your primary venue.

You or your partner must:

- Complete a 'Notice of Intended Marriage' and take that into an office of a Registrar of Marriages. Then you pay the fee and sign the statutory declaration before a Registrar of Marriages stating you are legally free to marry.

My Celebrant Role:

A wedding is actually quite a simple affair, as you only require the official paperwork and some witnesses. Then each of the wedding parties must answer one legally required sentence such as:

“Do you?” “Yes”

In New Zealand the wording is non-specific which is great as you can then write the ceremony any way you want. As long as the legal context remains.

The rest of the formalities are up to you.

You can choose to have it last five minutes – to however long you like... within reason!

For my part I must make sure that the two people listed on the paperwork are in fact the two people getting married, I then ensure that the rest of the paperwork is correctly filled out and signed by everyone. I then send a copy to the registrar.

You can order a marriage certificate by filling in the form on the back of one of the licence copies or you can do it later online from the registrar website.

Wedding Ceremony:

First thing to point out is aside from the legal paperwork and ceremony question there are no rules. None at all.

You decide the format, who stands where, who sits where, what you want in your ceremony (songs, readings, poems, sand ceremony etc). You can have a wedding party of none or ten on each side standing with you. You can sing your entire ceremony. You can dress up in costumes, you can theme.

YOU CAN DO ANYTHING YOU WANT.

This is important as it is *your day* so do it *your way*.

If you want to get married in the back yard with a BBQ dinner with mates you can. If you want to go to the beach you can.

Chat to me about it and I will guide you as best as I can.

Professional Fees:

The first face to face meeting is at no charge and no obligation if inside the Auckland zone (or done via video chat).

(Auckland Zone: Central to Kumeu, Albany, Maraetai, Papakura).

This initial meeting is normally held either at my home or a local café but I can travel to you inside the zone if necessary.

Celebrant Services: \$550.00 (Rehearsal \$50 extra)

Includes:

- The first full planning meeting, assistance with script creation and the initial ceremony personalisation.
- Supply resource material and checklists as required.
- Continuing discussions and alterations as required to the ceremony format and content.
- The wedding day itself.
- Finalisation of documents to Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages on next working day.

Booking confirmation requires a non-refundable deposit of \$100

Full balance of Celebrant fee is required on the day or before.

Any requirements for travel and accommodation outside of the Auckland zone are extra.

I do hope this basic information was of help, and I look forward to chatting with you soon!

Craig Lord

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union nuptials
wedlock partner pact
coverture
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betrothment merger spouse
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Your Day, 
Your Way...