

קול ששון וקול שמחה קול חתן וקול כלה





GETTING
MARRIED
WITH THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE



MAZEL TOV!

Getting married is an exciting time with lots to arrange and organise including a venue, caterers and of course the chuppah itself. At the United Synagogue we're here to help you with the formalities of arranging your chuppah which requires authorisation from the Office of the Chief Rabbi. This leaflet is a guide through this process.





When should we make an appointment to have our marriage authorised through the Office of the Chief Rabbi?

In order to be married through the US you will need to have your marriage authorised by the Office of the Chief Rabbi, this should be done as soon as you have set the date, confirmed the venue and the marrying Rabbi. Please contact Marriage Liaison on 0208 343 6314 or email marriage@theus.org.uk for further details.

Which documents and information do we need for our appointment?

The following documents will be needed for the appointment:

If this is your first marriage:

The Jewish marriage contract (ketubah) of your parents or, if these are not available, the date and place of their marriage, assuming that this took place in the UK, under orthodox auspices

A full birth certificate (i.e. the version showing the names of your parents)

The Registrar's certificates of marriage

A letter from a parent or other close relative living in the UK stating that you have never been married before

Where there has been a change of name since your parents' marriage, documentary evidence to that effect, (e.g. copy of deed poll)

Ascertain your Hebrew names, where known, and those of your fathers. Also confirm whether your fathers are "Cohen", "Levi" or "Israelite"



If you have been married before:

Your previous ketubah or the date and place of your previous marriage (in the UK)

Either the death certificate of your late spouse, or where applicable, your Get certificate (Jewish divorce) and civil decree absolute

The Registrar's certificates of marriage

A letter from a close relative resident in the UK stating that you have not remarried since becoming widowed / divorced

PLEASE NOTE: in all cases of query, doubt, absence of documents, documents issued abroad, applicants born or living abroad, or where your own circumstances may require further investigation, you should seek our advice immediately.

How do we get a Registrar's Certificate for Marriage?

Up to twelve months before your wedding, each of you must visit your local Register Office to give notice of your intended marriage. The registrar will issue each of you with a certificate at the conclusion of the notice period (29 days). (NOTE that if either one or both of the parties are NOT an EEA national the 29 clear days may increase to 70 clear days). For further information please check with your local Registrar Authority for guidance. Couples are no longer able to collect their own certificates so please ask, at your meeting, the process for obtaining the certificates. The original certificates are required by The Office of the Chief Rabbi before issuing a marriage authorisation.

What fee is involved?

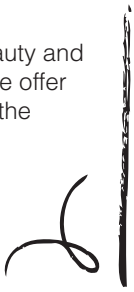
Please be aware there is a fee of £100 for the marriage authorisation process, so please click on the link below to make your payment.

<http://www.chief Rabbi.org/marriage-authorisation-payment>



Suggested Checklist

- Choose a suitable date
- Fix the date with an orthodox Rabbi who is authorised to solemnise weddings
- Choose the venue – please be aware that when choosing a non-synagogue venue, the Chief Rabbi's authorisation will only be granted if the wedding reception is being catered under the supervision of a recognised kashrut authority
- Obtain Registrar's certificates from your local authority Register Office.
- 5 – 6 months before your wedding date contact the Office of the Chief Rabbi on 020 8343 6314 and speak to Marriage Liaison to arrange a personal meeting. At this meeting you will be required to produce evidence to establish your Jewish status and eligibility to marry in accordance with Jewish Law
- It is a requirement of English & Welsh Law that either the bride or the groom must be a member of the synagogue responsible for registering their marriage for civil purposes. In order to benefit from the free year and discounted US membership scheme offered for a first marriage, both bride and groom must sign up and join the US and fully complete a Marriage Membership Form (pending Jewish status checks)
- Enquire about our Living and Learning Marriage Programmes. Our Marriage Enhancement Programme provides a wonderful Jewish perspective on the beauty and spirituality of Jewish Marriage and is offered prior to the marriage ceremony. We offer our Newly Weds Programme for after marriage, to help guide couples through the transition of setting up and building their own Jewish home



Useful Contacts and Websites

Office of the Chief Rabbi – Marriage Liaison - 020 8343 6314

General enquiries & Marriage process

Office of the Chief Rabbi – Marriage Authorisation - 020 8343 6313

For guidance about your forthcoming marriage and any technical questions or issues regarding Jewish Law and customs

Marriage Enhancement Programme - 07834 535 489

One-to-one educational programme to tailor individual needs for engaged couples

London Beth Din - 020 8343 6270

When planning your forthcoming marriage abroad please contact the London Beth Din.

Kashrut Division - 020 8343 6255

We are able to offer you a choice of KLBD caterers to suit your budget. For more information please call our Simcha Executive on 07538 794 898

The United Synagogue - Membership Department - 020 8343 5687

For all queries regarding US Membership

The United Synagogue - www.theus.org.uk/marriage

Includes various topics you may find useful when planning your marriage. This website also covers all aspects relating to the United Synagogue as well as lots of other useful information

The Office of the Chief Rabbi - www.chiefrabbi.org

Access to many articles, thoughts and speeches to inspire us in our day to day lives



Office of The
CHIEF RABBI

