**Getting a Marriage Licence**

You can’t get married or have a civil union in NZ without a marriage licence. You need to arrange it at least 3 working days before you want to get married. It costs $150 if you chose to get married by me or another marriage celebrant, a little more if you get married at a registry office.

Before you apply for a marriage licence, you need to select a marriage celebrant and organise where you’ll get married. You can only get married in the place you’ve put on the marriage licence form, so include a back-up venue in case something goes wrong, for example if the weather is bad.

If you or your partner has been married before:

* is divorced, you’ll need a copy of the dissolution order if you have it
* had a spouse or civil union partner who has died, you won’t have to give evidence of their death, but you’ll need to put the date they died on the marriage licence form.

You can apply for a marriage licence online if you normally live in New Zealand, ***or will arrive in NZ more than 3 working days before you get married***. You can apply up to 3 months before the day of your wedding ceremony. The only people who need to complete a paper application are these:

* Those applying for a Civil Union as opposed to a marriage.
* If one of the couple is aged 16 or 17
* If you are changing between a Civil Union and a Marriage

Use this online service to fill in your licence application. <https://marriages.services.govt.nz/>

The Marriage licence will be emailed to the address you provide, which could be yourselves or your celebrant.

If you are getting married on Waiheke Island and need to visit a registry office, the registry office in downtown Auckland is probably the handiest. The address is: Level 6, AA Building, 99 Albert Street, Auckland 1010

An alternative registry office is in South Auckland at: 7 Ronwood Avenue, Manukau 2104

The opening hours for both offices is Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 5:00pm, except Wednesday 9:00am to 5:00

To contact either office:

Email: bdm.nz@dia.govt.nz

Phone: +64 4 463 9362

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me as soon as possible.