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## **Wedding Registrar or a Wedding Celebrant?**

### **Which Is Right for Your Big Day?**

When you are in the planning stages of your wedding, there is so much to consider. So many important decisions to make. One of the most crucial choices you'll need to make is who will lead your ceremony. Here in England, you have two options, either a wedding registrar or a wedding celebrant.

Both of these options offer their own benefits but they both come with their own set of considerations. So, what are the differences between the registrar and the celebrant?

#### **The Wedding Registrar**

##### **What is a Wedding Registrar?**

A wedding registrar is a government-appointed official who is legally authorized to conduct marriage ceremonies. Registrars are typically associated with local registry offices and are responsible for ensuring that all legal requirements of a marriage are met.

##### **Benefits of Choosing a Wedding Registrar:**

1. **Legal Validity:** The primary advantage of having a registrar officiate your wedding is that they can legally marry you. Your marriage will be officially recognized as soon as the ceremony is complete.
2. **Structure and Simplicity:** Registrars follow a standardized script and procedure, which can make the planning process straightforward. If you prefer a traditional and formal ceremony, this could be a perfect choice.
3. **Convenience:** If you choose to get married at a registry office, the process is usually streamlined and efficient. Many registry offices also offer beautiful rooms and settings for your ceremony.



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### Considerations:

1. **Limited Personalization:** Registrars have to follow a set legal script, which means there is limited scope for personalizing the ceremony. If you have specific readings, vows, or rituals you want to include, there might be restrictions.
2. **Venue Restrictions:** To have a registrar marry you outside of the registry office, your chosen venue must be licensed for civil ceremonies. This can limit your choice of locations.

### The Wedding Celebrant

#### What is a Wedding Celebrant?

A wedding celebrant is a professional who conducts personalized wedding ceremonies but does not have the legal authority to marry a couple. Celebrants are known for creating bespoke ceremonies that reflect the couple's personalities, values, and love story.

### Benefits of Choosing a Wedding Celebrant:

1. **Personalisation:** Celebrants specialise in crafting unique and memorable ceremonies tailored to your specific wishes. They can incorporate special rituals, personalised vows, readings, and any other elements that are meaningful to you.
2. **Flexibility:** Unlike registrars, celebrants are not bound by legal scripts or venue restrictions. You can have your ceremony anywhere, from a beach to your backyard, without needing a licensed venue.
3. **Creativity:** If you have a vision for a non-traditional wedding or want to include cultural, religious, or spiritual elements that a registrar might not allow, a celebrant **can accommodate your needs.**



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## Celebrant

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### Considerations:

1. Legal Formalities: Since celebrants cannot legally marry you, you will still need to complete the legal marriage formalities at a registry office. Many couples choose to do this either before or after their celebrant-led ceremony.
2. Additional Costs: Hiring a celebrant can be an additional expense on top of the legal fees associated with getting married at a registry office. However, many couples find the investment worthwhile for the added personal touch.

### Making Your Decision

When deciding between a wedding registrar and a celebrant, consider the following questions:

- How important is it for your ceremony to be legally binding? If you want the ceremony itself to be the legal moment of your marriage, a registrar is essential.
- Do you have a specific vision for your ceremony? If you want a highly personalized and unique ceremony, a celebrant might be the better choice.
- Where do you want to get married? If you have your heart set on a particular **non-licensed venue**, a celebrant can totally make that dream a reality.

Ultimately, the choice between a registrar and a celebrant comes down to what aspects of your wedding are most important to you. Whether you opt for the legal formality of a registrar or the personalised creativity of a celebrant, the most important thing is that your ceremony reflects your love and commitment to each other.

Your wedding day is a celebration of your unique journey as a couple, and whichever path you choose, it's sure to be a beautiful and unforgettable experience.

If you would like more information or would like to meet up at any point, please feel free to contact me....let's starting making your dreams come true.

**Best wishes**

**Anita Scott**