
Marriage in Bermuda

Revised April 2008

Visitors who wish to come to Bermuda to be married must have their "Notice of Intended Marriage" published in the Bermuda newspapers. No blood tests or health certificates are required. Copies of final divorce decrees or death certificates must accompany the "Notice of Intended Marriage" form for all persons previously married before wishing to be married in Bermuda.

NOTICE TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL

Notice may be given to the Registrar General by either of the parties personally, by mail, or by courier:

Registrar General

Government Administration Building
30 Parliament Street
Hamilton HM 12
Bermuda

Tel: (441) 297-7709 or (441) 297-7707

Fax: (441) 292-4568

Web: www.registrygeneral.gov.bm

A "Notice of Intended Marriage" form must be completed (including full names and residential addresses) and should be accompanied by a fee of \$243 (plus \$24 for the certificate), in Bermuda or U.S. dollars in the form of a cashier's cheque or bank draft made payable to the Accountant General, Hamilton, Bermuda, or by credit card (e-mail kminors@gov.bm or etodd@gov.bm for details). Personal cheques are not accepted. Airmail to Bermuda can take from 6 to 14 days from the U.S., Canada and the U.K.

"Notice of Intended Marriage" forms may be obtained from the Bermuda Department of Tourism offices in New York and London (U.K.), can be downloaded from www.bermudatourism.com/maps_and_brochures.aspx, and is also available from the office of the Registrar General in Bermuda, or www.registrygeneral.gov.bm.

PUBLISHING A NOTICE OF INTENDED MARRIAGE

This notice is published by the Registry staff in the local newspapers twice. A period of 15 days must elapse from the date of receipt of the Notice by the Registry before the Registrar General may issue the licence to marry. Parties to the intended marriage are not required to be resident during this time. The licence to marry may be issued on or after the fifteenth day provided no formal objection has been raised to the intended marriage. The licence to marry must be issued within three months of receipt of the Notice by the Registrar General and remains valid for three months from the date of issue.

THEREAFTER THE MARRIAGE MAY BE PERFORMED

- a) In the Registry by appointment between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday to Friday of each week; Saturday between 10 a.m. and noon only. Two witnesses are required for Registry marriages which take place in an attractively decorated Marriage Room with comfortable seating for up to a dozen guests (more may be accommodated if standing). The fee for the Registry marriage is \$199, which includes the ceremony. If the registration number of the certificate is quoted, then the cost will be \$24 each. Additional copies of the same certificate supplied at the same time cost \$24 per certificate.
- b) In a church or place other than the Registry General with the consent of the clergyman or other appropriate official at a time and at fees arranged with that authority. A marriage certificate ordered in advance or at the time of the ceremony will cost \$24. Outdoor weddings or weddings in buildings other than a church may be arranged with the consent of a clergyman.
- c) Justices of the Peace cannot perform marriages in Bermuda.

NOTE: Where church ceremonies are concerned, there are two points of importance:

- 1. Divorced persons should be aware that they cannot be married in any of the Roman Catholic churches in Bermuda. However, church weddings for divorcees can sometimes be arranged by special request with the minister concerned at other churches, such as the Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian and A.M.E.
- 2. Catholics not normally resident in Bermuda cannot be married in Catholic churches in Bermuda except under exceptional circumstances, such as in the case of people who have special family ties in Bermuda or who have lived in Bermuda previously. Questions on this subject can only be answered by, and should be addressed to The Bishop of Hamilton, P.O. Box HM 1191, Hamilton HM EX, Bermuda.

MINORS

All minors under the age of 18 years must have the written consent of both parents, the surviving parent or legal guardian. There is space provided on the "Notice of Intended Marriage" form where the person(s) giving consent must sign. In cases in which the person giving consent is on the Island, he or she must sign the form either in the presence of a notary public or a member of the Registry General staff. Where the person is not on the Island, the form must be signed in the presence of a notary public, or a written form of consent, witnessed by a notary public, must be attached to the completed "Notice of Intended Marriage" form.

WEDDING CONSULTANTS

Bermuda Bride

78 Harbour Road

Paget PG 02

Bermuda

Tel: (441) 232-2344

Fax: (441) 232-3724

Email: info@bermudabride.com

Website: www.bermudabride.com

Managing Director: Nikki J. Begg, Professional Wedding Planner

Bermuda Bride, now in its eighth year of business, specialises in planning, coordinating and designing every aspect of your destination wedding. Their emphasis is on simple yet elegant occasions. Whether it's an intimate barefoot ceremony for two on one of Bermuda's beautiful beaches or an elaborate tented affair, they work within your budget to create a day that reflects your personal taste and style. A professional approach with fresh, stylish ideas and attention to the smallest detail means you can relax and enjoy every moment. Bermuda Bride is recognised within the local industry as the leader in destination wedding planning, and is a member of the Association of Bridal Consultants.

The Bridal Suite

Bermuda Head Office:

P.O. Box HM 3180

Hamilton HM NX

Tel: (441) 292-2025

Fax: (441) 296-2070

Email: info@bridalsuitebermudaweddings.com

Website: www.bridalsuitebermudaweddings.com

Canada Sales:

68 Matheson Road, Suite 100

Woodville, Ontario K0M 2T0

Toll free: (888) 253-5585 or Tel: (705) 426-9920

Fax: (705) 426-1479

Managing Partners: Carmen & Allister Simmons

The Bridal Suite is one of Bermuda's oldest and most established wedding specialists designing and photographing Bermuda weddings and vow renewals since 1989. Their family business is dedicated to providing superb professional service offering creative and artistic ideas in designing island weddings. Arranging and overseeing a wedding can be a daunting task, time consuming, detail orientated with endless follow ups. Working with an inspiring wedding professional such as The Bridal Suite ensures a memorable wedding experience for everyone. Assisting clientele from all over the globe to make their special day a truly unique and unprecedented wedding experience. Full services provided plus all the little extras that really count. Arranging for just the two of you or large elegant affairs.

WEDDING CONSULTANTS

The Wedding Salon Ltd.

In USA:

2312 Trellis Court

Raleigh, NC 27604-8699

Tel: 919 217 4395

Fax: 919 266 2182

E-mail: bwhitecross@bellsouth.net

Website: www.bermudaweddingsalon.com

In Bermuda:

76 Spanish Point Road

Pembroke HM 02, Bermuda

Barbara Whitecross, Certified Wedding Consultant

Weddings and Renewals can be celebrated in church, on a beach, on a cliff or any other place you can dream of. We will arrange and oversee all wedding plans including, but not limited to, the legal documents, church and minister, reception, flowers, photography, videography, music, wedding cake, horse and carriage, taxis and salon appointments. We arrange intimate ceremonies for just the bride and groom or lavish affairs for hundreds of guests and everything in between.

Note: All fees and conditions are subject to change without notice. Information correct at the time of production, April 2008.

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