



*Inverclyde Civil
Marriages*

Your day, your way

Congratulations and thank you for considering Inverclyde for your Civil Ceremony

This brochure illustrates the range of options available to you and we will do everything we can to make it both memorable and special.

By choosing a Civil Ceremony, you are opting to have something that is unique and personal. We are happy to work with you to make sure you get it just the way you want it – personal touches really make a difference.

Whether you choose a simple intimate ceremony or a large grander event, our staff are here to develop and provide tailor made ceremonies to your personal requirements.

The ceremony will be conducted by an authorised Registrar or Assistant Registrar who will carry out your ceremony in accordance with the choices you make.

Where can your ceremony take place?

Your ceremony may take place in many places. Where? When? Tailor made? Cost?

Wherever you decide to get married you may also wish to enhance your ceremony by incorporating any of the following suggestions, making it more personal and individual.

Sand Ceremony

This ceremony requires the couple to provide two containers of coloured sand – one for each of them and one large container capable of holding the sand from the two smaller containers.

The two colours of sand symbolise your separate lives, separate families and sets of friends. They represent all that you are and all that you will ever be as an individual. They also represent your lives before today.

As these two containers of sand are poured into the third container, the individual containers of sand will no longer exist, but will be joined as one. Just as the grains of sand can never be separated and poured into the individual containers.

This is also a great way to incorporate children or family into your ceremony.

Handfasting Ceremony

Handfasting is an ancient Celtic custom which involves tying a piece of tartan or ribbon around your joined hands while facing each other as a symbolic way of representing your union at the start of your marriage. It may well be where the expression “tying the knot” came from.

Couples often choose to use a cloth made of a particular clan tartan or a specific colour of cloth symbolising something important to them.



Quaich Ceremony

The Quaich was a two-handled loving cup used during the wedding feast. From it the couple took their first communion together as a married couple. They also used the Quaich at the reception for their first toast together.

Symbolic of the sharing between the couple, it's an ancient vessel used by two families or clans to celebrate a bond, with each leader partaking of the offered drink.

Oathing Stone Ceremony

The Oathing Stone is an old Scottish tradition where the couple place their hands upon a stone while saying their wedding vows. Taken from the ancient Celtic custom of "setting an oath in stone" inclusion of the Oathing stone ceremony in the vows can be deeply moving.

During the declarations, the couple hold the Oathing stone, together in their hands. It is believed that holding the stone during the vows casts or sets them in stone.

Guest vows

Ask your guests to join in on the vows after you make your vows to each other, the Registrar can offer suggestions.

Children's vows

As couples with children are forming a union between more than two people, the exchange of vows is commonly amended to include a child's wedding vow for each of the children in the ceremony.

You may also like to involve them in some of the following ways:

- Have them bring the rings forward
- Have them do a reading/poem/song
- Tie the knot for a handfasting ceremony
- Include a favourite song of your loved ones within your ceremony music
- Giving the child(ren) a ring or gift as a welcome to the new family unit

Unity Candle

This ceremony symbolises the joining of the two families and two individuals becoming one in commitment.

This ceremony uses two taper candles with a large pillar candle in the centre. The Registrar will light the groom's taper candle and ask him to light the bride's. These are representative of your individual lives up to this point. You will both then be asked to light the pillar or unity candle symbolising the two of you now becoming one. The tapers are then placed back in their holders extinguishing their individual flames, thus establishing your union together.

Your day, your way....



Remembering absent loved ones

There are many ways to incorporate memories of loved ones in your day. You may ask your Registrar/Assistant Registrar to mention loved ones in your ceremony. However you may also wish to include one of the following acts of remembrance:

- The lighting of a memorial candle in memory of an individual or a group of individuals
- A table of remembrance with a photograph of your loved one(s) – you can also include a memorial candle here
- Have a friend or family member do a reading or small speech in memory of the person/people
- Include a favourite song of your loved one within your ceremony music

Love letters

This is a romantic way to express your feelings and to say some of the things to each other that you take for granted or simply assume your loved one already knows. In this modern day world we live in, it's easy for us to forget why we fell in love in the first place.

The Registrar will ask you both to think of three things that you love about each other and to write these down without discussion and place in a separate sealed envelope. These will be read out during your ceremony.

Wedding rehearsals

A rehearsal provides unpressured time to go through your ceremony and helps everyone to know what to expect, where to stand and what to say and do in all the right places.

There are various ways to enhance your ceremony and make it personal to you. Please discuss any thoughts or suggestions with your Registrar/Assistant Registrar who will be happy to incorporate these into your bespoke ceremony.

Photography and video recording

Photography and video recording is allowed at the discretion of the Registrar.

Inverclyde Council nor the Registrar will accept responsibility for any damage or loss to equipment or accessories at the Registration Office.

Contact

To discuss your family requirements, please contact our dedicated team on **01475 714250** or email us at **registrars@inverclyde.gov.uk**

www.inverclyde.gov.uk/ceremonies