

## **Photography and video at ceremonies**

This protocol can only offer guidance in general terms as Registrars attend over 150 different venues to conduct ceremonies. The Registrars will often meet the couple for the first time on the day of the ceremony. They will not have discussed any photography wishes beforehand as this is a matter for the couple and the photographer to discuss in advance. It is also the responsibility of the photographer to check with the couple that no guests will object to having their picture taken. We ask you to let us know beforehand of any particular requests for photographs from the couple, such as guests delivering a reading.

We would expect there will be some pre-ceremony photographs of the couple. We do ask that you complete taking the photographs 15 minutes before the start time of the ceremony. This is because we have to interview the couple in private (without the photographer being present) just prior to the ceremony.

There is no bar to the photographer/videographer being in the room during the ceremony. As the photographer, if you have a preference as to where to stand, please speak to the Registrar on duty on the day. In general, it could be anywhere in the room but I would ask you to bear in mind the following practical points:

- There must be no obstruction of any fire exits by equipment such as tripods or trailing wires.
- The marriage register must never be readable from any picture taken.
- The use of flash should never be capable of interfering with the sight and vision of the Registrars, the couple or anyone giving a reading.
- Use the quietest setting possible on your camera.
- We ask you not to move around as it is extremely distracting for the couple, the Registrars and guests.

An excellent time for you to take photographs is as the guests gather in the ceremony room and the couple enter either separately or together. During the ceremony, we will pause, if you have asked us to, for you to take photographs whilst the rings are being exchanged. We will also pause for you to take pictures of the “first kiss”. We can also “stage” the handing over of the marriage certificate.

There are two particular point where we ask you not to take pictures. This is during the “declaratory “ and “contracting” words which is when the couple repeat the legal wording necessary to contract a marriage.

The third time we ask you not to take pictures is when the couple sign the official register. The marriage register the couple sign has details of other couples and it is for this reason the register cannot be photographed or videoed. We will however, provide a dummy register and there will be ample opportunities for you to take pictures at that point.

If issues arise, then it is hoped these will be resolved on the day of the ceremony by mutual agreement. The photographer can always discuss the matter with the local area manager in the first instance but we suggest this is after the ceremony.