



*Wendy*  
*The Celebrant*  
CEREMONIES OF ALL FLAVOURS

## Feeling The Love



**Wedding Ceremony Info Pack**

## Wendy Wardell

Civil Marriage Celebrant

**M:** 0422 924 197

**E:** [wendy.wardell@iinet.net.au](mailto:wendy.wardell@iinet.net.au)

**W:** [wendywardell.com.au](http://wendywardell.com.au)



## An Information Resource for Marrying Couples

Congratulations on your upcoming marriage. While it's both exciting and scary to be plunged into the wedding planning process, together we can make organising your ceremony stress-free and minimise your deer-caught-in-the-headlights moments!

While there are, of course legal obligations, you will be guided every step of the way to make sure everything is covered and your ceremony is smooth, hassle free, and reflective of how you want to make your entrance into the world as a couple.

As your Celebrant is an integral part of your wedding, the service I offer is a personal one. My main aim is to provide you with the ceremony you want. To do this I'll need to spend time sitting down and talking to you, hopefully sharing a few laughs and a coffee or a wine along the way. I'm not a great believer in just sending you away with a form to fill out to tell me about your relationship – a conversation is so much better.

So, strap yourselves in and buckle up for the ride into matrimony!  
This Info Pack is the starting point to give you the skinny on the process leading up to the big day.

### What this document covers:

	Page
● Ceremony Packages including fees and inclusions	3
● The process of organising a marriage ceremony	5
● The legal nuts and bolts	6
● Investing in your relationship	7

## Ceremony Packages

A range of packages are offered to cater for couples who want different things from their ceremony, whether it's simply one to 'tick the legal boxes' in the company of a few close family members, something simple and low key but warm and personalised for a slightly bigger group, or a full ceremony for a celebration of your commitment with a larger group of guests and a ceremony personally written for you and all about you.

It's all about meeting expectations – both yours and those of your guests. If you've enticed people to Perth from the mountain tops of Nepal, they may feel a little short-changed if your ceremony is over in the blink of an eye. A bit of theatre is expected and generally enjoyed, and it is your day to shine! That said, not everyone feels comfortable in the spotlight, so a low-key option may suit some people better.

So – here we go...

### Fast & Fabulous

**\$675**



- Fulfills all requirements of legal marriage ceremony
- Within a 10km radius of Fremantle
- Ten guests or fewer
- A processional song
- Standard ceremony template but tweaks are fine including your own vows!

*CEREMONY DURATION: AROUND FIVE MINUTES PLUS SIGNING TIME*

### Small & Smart

**\$850**

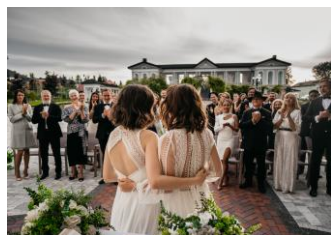


- Fulfills all requirements of legal marriage ceremony
- Some personalisation and choice of ceremony elements
- Any location in the greater Perth area
- Twenty-four guests or fewer
- Personal vows may be included
- Readings and rituals may be included
- Your choice of music included
- Rehearsal at venue

*CEREMONY DURATION: AROUND 10-15 MINUTES DEPENDING ON INCLUSIONS.*

## Wedding With The Lot

\$1,100



- Completely individualised ceremony
- Any location subject to agreement (travel surcharge may apply)
- Any number of guests
- You can choose every element within the ceremony and full guidance is provided!
- Incorporates a number of personal elements developed after one- on-one discussion with you
- Includes assistance with developing vows if you choose to write your own or a range of ideas to help get you started
- Full suite of readings, rituals and other elements available to reflect your lives, shared history and values
- Your choice of music included
- Rehearsal at venue

*THIS IS THE OPTION FAVOURED BY THE MAJORITY OF COUPLES, AS IT PROVIDES A WARM, PERSONAL AND ENTERTAINING CEREMONY OF AROUND 25-30 MINUTES DURATION.*

### All ceremonies include:

- At least one face-to-face meeting to complete legal paperwork and discuss ceremony options
- Regular liaison by phone/email as needed
- Music and PA where required
- Provision of an electronic copy of the ceremony prior to the wedding and plenty of opportunity to review and adapt the script
- A signing table and chairs if required
- Completion and submission of all documentation required under current Australian law to Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages

### Further notes:

- Once the booking is confirmed and a Notice of Intended Marriage (NOIM) completed, a non-refundable deposit of \$300 is payable. The balance becomes payable fourteen days prior to the marriage ceremony taking place.
- Additional services required, such as the use of an interpreter or the purchase of items for use in wedding rituals need to be organised and paid by the client
- Ceremonies may be conducted outside the Perth region for payment of an agreed travel supplement

# The process of organising a marriage ceremony

## HOW TO BUILD A WORRY-FREE WEDDING CEREMONY!

by Wendy The Celebrant  
[www.wendywardell.com.au](http://www.wendywardell.com.au)



### FIRST STEP!

Find someone you love to bits and can't picture life without. Set a date

**18+**  
MONTHS BEFORE



Find a venue that suits your guest numbers and budget



**12**  
MONTHS BEFORE

Contact me to meet you for a coffee and a chat. We'll talk through the process and you can decide if we gel!

**4**  
MONTHS BEFORE



We'll meet again to complete paperwork. Now I can really get to grips with who you are, what's important to you and how much fun we can include in your ceremony



Over the following months I go to work crafting your story and your ceremony, including all the elements we've discussed along the way. If you're writing your own vows, I will start nagging you for those!

**2**  
DAYS BEFORE



Rehearsal Day. A relaxed run through of the procession and ceremony to fine tune all the details.



### Wedding Day!

Even the most nervous brides and grooms are relaxed and happy, knowing exactly how the ceremony will unfold and confident that everything is under control

The only thing you need to remember is -

### Don't Panic!

While the infographic on the left depicts an ideal timeline in which to plan your ceremony, life rarely works out that way.

As long as we have at least the legally required one month up our sleeves, you can still be assured of getting a warm, vibrant and memorable ceremony that is everything you had imagined it to be.

The first step is to get in touch and organise a no-obligation, face-to-face meeting over a coffee.

## The legal nuts and bolts:

A number of steps must be undertaken to comply with the requirements of the Marriage Act 1961 the Marriage Regulations 1963 and subsequent amendments to the Act.

### At least one month\* prior

A Notice of Intended Marriage Form will need to be lodged with your celebrant. This requires that you provide:

- A Birth certificate and photo identification; or
- A valid passport
- Evidence of the end of any previous marriages

In the absence of a birth certificate or passport, you may be required to complete a Statutory Declaration, but can only do so once you have made best efforts to obtain the required documents. The requirements are more onerous where either party is under 18 years of age, so planning needs to be started well in advance of the wedding date.

*\* There are limited grounds on which the Registrar of Births Deaths and Marriages may grant a 'shortening of time' in terms of the lodgement of the Notice of Intended Marriage with a celebrant. The celebrant is not able to do this themselves.*

### Ideally one or more days prior (usually at the rehearsal, where applicable)

- A declaration that there is no legal impediment to the marriage will need to be completed by both parties.

### On the day

- The marriage needs to be witnessed by two people who are over the age of 18 years. The celebrant will require that they sign the Certificates of Marriage completed after the ceremony, along with the marrying couple
- The ceremony provided needs to include wording that complies with legal requirements. This is a minimum requirement and most aspects of the ceremony may be personalised.

### Important Note:

It's a good idea to choose you celebrant and start planning your ceremony with them well ahead of time!

I can also provide you with other important information on request on topics such as:

- Celebrant Code of Conduct, standards of service and client privacy
- Use of interpreters
- Wedding music and copyright

## Investing in Your Relationship

It is a legal requirement under the Marriage Act 1961 that Civil Celebrants provide couples completing a Notice of Intended Marriage with information regarding suitable relationship counselling services in their area, together with a copy of the leaflet “*Happily Ever Before and After*”.

The decision to marry is one of the most important decisions any of us make in our life and it is one that is not taken lightly. However, we must also acknowledge that modern life can throw a whole lot of obstacles in the path of relationships. It’s therefore important that we build resilient and insightful relationships from the start; ones that can develop and evolve as the years pass and circumstances change.

No-one enters marriage anticipating that things will go wrong further down the track, and for some, the idea of pre-marriage counselling is counter-intuitive at a time when they want only to express their love and commitment to each other. But the nature of love changes over time and pre-marriage counselling recognises this and provides a couple with a toolbox of strategies to accommodate these changes within a loving, mutually rewarding partnership.

**Relationships Australia** is a national provider of relationship counselling services for people at all stages of their life. They have nine offices across Western Australia and offer a variety of seminars specific to couples’ needs.

Prepare-Enrich is a customised program that starts with assessment of an online questionnaire followed by feedback sessions with a trained facilitator to focus on areas specific to the couple’s needs. A range of other courses focus on communication for couples and enhancing relationships.

Relationships Australia – Western Australia corporate office is in Leederville

Ph: 9489 6350 Website: [www.relationships.com.au](http://www.relationships.com.au)

**The Hart Centre** Full Pre-Marriage Counselling Course is offered by Relationship Psychologists with many years’ experience in relationship counselling. They ensure that your communication skills are what they need to be for you to continue to have a healthy relationship over the longer term – one of the best investments you can make in your future happiness.

**The Hart Centre – 12 offices around Perth**

P: 1300 830 552 w: [www.thehartcentre.com.au](http://www.thehartcentre.com.au)

**Wendy Wardell, Civil Marriage Celebrant, North Fremantle, Western Australia**

**M: 0422 924 197**

**E: [Wendy.Wardell@inet.net.au](mailto:Wendy.Wardell@inet.net.au)**

**W: [www.wendywardell.com.au](http://www.wendywardell.com.au)**