

Regulations for getting married in church

For non European Economic Area nationals. There has been a tightening up of the church regulations for marrying anyone who requires leave to enter or remain in the UK. This includes nationals of Canada, Australia and the USA. We ask all non European Economic area nationals to apply to get a Superintendent Registrar's Certificate. For more details on how to do this please see below.

If you are a European Economic Area national and fulfil one of the following qualifying criteria you can be married by banns which is the most straightforward of the legal processes.

- ❖ If you were baptised in the parish church
- ❖ If you were confirmed or prepared for confirmation in the parish
- ❖ Either of you have lived for six months in the parish
- ❖ Either of you have worshipped for at least six months in the parish
- ❖ parents of either of you have at any time lived or worshipped in the parish during bride/groom's lifetime
- ❖ if grandparents of either of you were married in the parish church

In each case "in the parish" means in the parish in which you wish to get married

Banns are read in the church in which you are to be married and the church where you live (if that is different) for three weeks sometime in the three months before the wedding

If you have no qualifying connection with the parish you will need to get a Superintendent Registrar's Certificate

This is a certificate produced by the civil registrars which allows us to marry you in church without reading banns. You need to contact the registrar for this area (Chippenham for all our churches.tel: 01249 654361) and the registrar where you live (probably Swindon for many of you -01793 521734). They will explain all the details but in brief one of you needs to live in the parish in which you are getting married for a period of seven days on the eighth day you attend the registrar in Chippenham for your certificate. At the same time your fiancé(e) collects a certificate from their registrar. This should be done in the three months before the wedding and the church has to have a copy of both certificates before you can be married.