

Who can enter into a legal marriage or civil partnership in England or Wales?

To enter into a legal marriage, you must be:

- At least 18 years old (or 16 years old with parental consent)

You must not be:

- Directly related by blood, marriage or adoption
- Already married or in a civil partnership

Who can register as civil partners?

To register as civil partners, you must be:

- The same sex
- At least 18 years old (or 16 years old with parental consent)

You must not be:

- Already be a civil partner or married
- Be closely related (the Act gives details of prohibited relationships)

A decree nisi is not the final document following a divorce, a decree absolute must be obtained before notice can be given.

If either party is subject to immigration control, permission must be obtained from the United Kingdom Border Agency before notice can be given at a designated office.

At least 28 days prior to the ceremony, **notice of intent** must be given at the Register Office in the district where you reside. This is a legal requirement and the waiting period can only be reduced in cases of serious illness or very extreme circumstances.