

## **Types Of Marriages And Celebrants**

Civil marriages are conducted by registrars, who have wide discretion over the form of the ceremony, to meet couples' wishes, as long as there are no religious references. Until 2002, civil marriages could only be held in registration offices. The Marriage (Scotland) Act 2002 allowed registrars to conduct ceremonies in other approved places from June 2002. Civil marriages were introduced by the Marriage (Scotland) Act 1939, which came into operation on 1 July 1940.

Religious and other belief system marriages are conducted by a wide range of celebrants. Humanist celebrants have been authorised to conduct marriages in Scotland since 2005.

Irregular marriages (marriages by cohabitation with habit and repute) - Nowadays, there are only a few irregular marriages per year. They are established by Decree of Declarator of the Court of Session. They are counted on the basis of the year of the Decree, although the event took place earlier. There were three types of irregular marriage, two of which were abolished by the Marriage (Scotland) Act 1939.