

MARRIAGE ACCORDING TO THE USAGE OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS) IN BRITAIN

The registering officer who has issued these forms is
of
..... Tel:

registering officer of Area Meeting
who will be pleased to advise or assist the parties in any matter of procedure connected with the marriage. The forms have been designed for use in England and Wales. For marriages in Scotland, the registering officer will advise on any differences of procedure.

INSTRUCTIONS

(This page to be detached and retained by the parties)

Form A should be completed by both applicants and Form B (Part I) by a first applicant who is not in membership and Form C (Part I) by a second applicant who is not in membership. No other forms should be filled in and no form should be detached except by the appropriate officer of the Society. Part II of Forms B and C should be completed, when appropriate, in each case by two adult members of the Society who are able to recommend the applicant. The forms should be returned to the registering officer of the area meeting within the bounds of which it is desired that the marriage be solemnised. To avoid disappointment and delay the forms should reach the registering officer, if possible, at least six weeks before the date of the intended marriage.

In order that the marriage may be solemnised in accordance with the law and with the usage of the Society the parties must:

apply to the appropriate registering officer for their marriage to be solemnised according to the usage of the Society as outlined above (16.18); this is done by completing Form A

obtain support in writing from two adult Friends for each non-member applicant (16.19); this is done by completing Form B1 and/or Form C1

An authorisation (Form D) is required by law to be produced to the superintendent registrar for each non-member applicant at the time when notice of marriage is given. If the registering officer assents to the applicant on Form B and/or Form C, Form D will then be used without any further application

give notice of intention as required by law to the superintendent registrar and obtain the certificate(s) or licence which must be sent to the registering officer without delay (16.29, 16.32a, 16.32b) which are set out overleaf).

Obtain a Quaker Certificate of Marriage, after consulting with the registering officer, to be completed in accordance with 16.47–16.50.

The registering officer will arrange for the necessary public notice of the intended marriage to be given (16.30), will apply to the appropriate meeting for a meeting for worship to be appointed (16.34), and will inform the parties when the meeting for worship for the solemnisation of their marriage has been appointed.

No fees are payable to officers of the Society in respect of the solemnisation of a marriage but statutory fees may be charged for supplying certificated copies from the marriage register.

Paragraph numbers shown in brackets above are from *Quaker faith & practice* Chapter 16: *Quaker marriage procedure as revised by Yearly Meeting 2012* to which reference should be made for full regulations and instructions. Currently available online at www.quaker.org.uk/ro

16.29 (part) Before the marriage of an opposite sex couple can be solemnised in England or Wales according to the usage of Friends, notice must be given by the parties concerned to the appropriate superintendent registrar and a certificate obtained by each party. The certificates should be obtained from the superintendent registrar(s) for the area(s) in which the parties live, and should be delivered to the registering officer as soon as possible after they are obtained. For opposite sex marriages in Scotland a marriage schedule is obtained from the registrar for the district in which the marriage is to take place, and this should be sent to the registering officer as soon as possible after it has been obtained.

Both members of a same sex couple must give notice of their intention to form a civil partnership to the appropriate authority in their jurisdiction; the procedure is essentially the same in Scotland as in England and Wales. They should request written confirmation of their having given notice of their intention, which must be sent to the registering officer as soon as possible after it has been obtained.

16.32a. *Marriages of opposite sex couples in England and Wales*

Each party must give notice of the intended marriage, in person, to the superintendent registrar of the district in which he or she resides, and has resided for at least seven days (that is, eight nights). Documentary evidence of name (and any former name(s) used), date of birth, nationality and residence will be required, together with documentary evidence of the ending of any previous marriage or civil partnership. A statutory fee is payable by each party at the time of giving notice. After the expiration of fifteen clear days the superintendent registrar will, on application, issue a certificate stating that the notice required by law has been duly complied with. The superintendent registrar's certificate is valid for twelve months after the entry in the marriage notice book, after which it expires. After expiry, the application must start afresh.

If one or both of the parties reside in Scotland, notice must be given to the district registrar(s) of the registration district(s) in Scotland in which each party has her or his usual residence or has been resident for fifteen clear days immediately previous to the giving of such notice, and the certificate(s) of such district registrar(s) must be obtained and will have the same validity as a certificate of a superintendent registrar. Anyone normally resident in Northern Ireland must establish seven full days' residence in England or Wales immediately before giving such notice.

If either of the parties is not in membership, a certificate (see 16.23) in respect of each such party must be produced to each superintendent registrar (for parties resident in England or Wales), or district registrar (for parties intending to be joined in marriage in England or Wales but resident in Scotland), at the time when such notice is given.

16.33a. *Marriages in England and Wales*

The procedure of marriage by licence in England and Wales in order to reduce the time required under the procedure by certificate was abolished by amendment of the Marriage Act 1949 in 2000. Nevertheless, there are provisions for certificates or civil partnership schedules to be issued under the authority of the Registrar General in a period shorter than fifteen days under certain exceptional circumstances.

The Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain
Friends House, Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ 1998, 2011, 2012

Registering Officers should seek advice from the Recording Clerk where applicants for marriage are of the same gender.

This form is to be completed and signed in all cases by both parties, each in the presence of a witness, and to be sent as soon as possible to the registering officer of the area meeting within the bounds of which it is desired that the marriage should take place.

DECLARATION OF INTENTION OF MARRIAGE

To Area Meeting

I, name IN FULL gender

of address

marital condition - e.g. single, previous marriage dissolved occupation age in years at date of marriage

child of father's name IN FULL father's occupation

of father's address

and of mother's name IN FULL mother's occupation

of mother's address

..... *

And I, name IN FULL gender

of address

marital condition - e.g. single, previous marriage dissolved occupation age in years at date of marriage

child of father's name IN FULL father's occupation

of father's address

and of mother's name IN FULL mother's occupation

of mother's address

..... *

hereby inform you that it is our intention to take each other in marriage and that it is our wish, if convenient to Friends, that our marriage may be solemnised at a meeting for worship

at Meeting House

on day, the day of in the year at : o'clock†

And we both declare that

(i) we are clear of any other marriage commitments;

(ii) we have reached eighteen years of age; +

or

we are proceeding in this matter with the consent of our parents [surviving parents] or guardians. +

Signed this day of in the year

Signature of first applicant

being a member of Area Meeting/being not in membership +

Signature of one adult witness

Address of witness

Signed this day of in the year

Signature of second applicant

being a member of Area Meeting/being not in membership +

Signature of one adult witness

Address of witness

* Should either of the parents be deceased, insert "the former deceased", "the latter deceased" or "both deceased" as the case may be. Should the parents live at different addresses each should be given.

† If necessary the day and time (but not the place) may be left blank, but in this case particulars should be sent to the registering officer as soon as possible.

+ Delete whichever is not appropriate.

FOR THE USE OF THE REGISTERING OFFICER

Name and gender of first applicant

Address Tel

Address for correspondence
if different from above..... Tel

a member of Area Meeting +
not in membership +

Name and gender of second applicant

Address Tel

Address for correspondence
if different from above Tel

a member of Area Meeting +
not in membership +

Form A (and B/C) sent
(date)

Form A (and B/C) returned
(date)

Form D issued to first applicant †
(date)

Form D issued to second applicant †
(date)

Form E sent to Meeting on Form E returned
(date) (date)

Form E sent to Meeting on Form E
(date) (date)

Objections received/no objections received

Form F sent to clerk of AM/LM on
(date)

Form F returned
(date)

Meeting for worship appointed for
(date)

at : o'clock at Meeting House

Parties notified on Form F, Part III
(date)

Quaker Certificate of Marriage given to +
will be provided by..... (date) +

Form G sent to Meeting on
(date)

Form G returned
(date)

Superintendent Registrar's Certificate(s) received
(date)

Quaker Certificate of Marriage received / checked
(date)

Form H sent to:

Clerk of Area Meeting where
marriage solemnised (date)

Clerk of Area Meeting of which
1st applicant is a member (date)

Clerk of Area Meeting of which
2nd applicant is a member (date)

+ Delete whichever is not appropriate.

† If required

B

Part I of this form should be completed, but not detached, by an applicant if (s)he is not in membership. Otherwise it should be left blank. The applicant should obtain the written recommendation of two adult members of the Society on Part II. The whole form should then be returned, together with Form A (and Form C if applicable) to the registering officer of the area meeting within the bounds of which it is desired that the marriage should take place.

APPLICATION BY SOMEONE NOT IN MEMBERSHIP

I

To Area Meeting

I,
name IN FULL Gender

of
address

..... marital condition – e.g. single, previous marriage dissolved occupation

hereby declare that I wish to be married according to the usage of the Religious Society of Friends

to
name IN FULL Gender

of
address

..... marital condition – e.g. single, previous marriage dissolved occupation

and if permission so to do be granted, I undertake to comply in all respects with the marriage regulations of the Society.

Signed this day of in the year

Signature of applicant

Part II of this form should be completed by two adult members of the Society of Friends, neither of whom should be a close relative of either of the parties. They should, either separately or together, have discussed the application with the applicant and be satisfied that (s)he is in unity with the Society’s testimony as to the nature of marriage (see *Quaker faith & practice* 16.01–16.09, and 22.33–22.43).

II

RECOMMENDATION

We agree that permission to be married according to our usage may suitably be granted to

.....
name IN FULL

with whom we have discussed this request. We are satisfied that (s)he is in unity with the Society’s testimony as to the nature of marriage.

Signed Date

of
address and telephone number

member of Area Meeting

Signed Date

of
address and telephone number

member of Area Meeting

Part I of this form should be completed, but not detached, by an applicant if (s)he is not in membership. Otherwise it should be left blank. The applicant should obtain the written recommendation of two adult members of the Society on Part II. The whole form should then be returned, together with Form A (and Form B if applicable) to the registering officer of the area meeting within the bounds of which it is desired that the marriage should take place.

APPLICATION BY SOMEONE NOT IN MEMBERSHIP

I

To Area Meeting

I,
name IN FULL Gender

of
address

.....
marital condition – e.g. single, previous marriage dissolved occupation

hereby declare that I wish to be married according to the usage of the Religious Society of Friends

to
name IN FULL Gender

of
address

.....
marital condition – e.g. single, previous marriage dissolved occupation

and if permission so to do be granted, I undertake to comply in all respects with the marriage regulations of the Society.

Signed this day of in the year

Signature of applicant

Part II of this form should be completed by two adult members of the Society of Friends, neither of whom should be a close relative of either of the parties. They should, either separately or together, have discussed the application with the applicant and be satisfied that (s)he is in unity with the Society’s testimony as to the nature of marriage (see *Quaker faith & practice* 16.01–16.09, and 22.33–22.43).

II

RECOMMENDATION

We agree that permission to be married according to our usage may suitably be granted to

.....
name IN FULL

with whom we have discussed this request. We are satisfied that (s)he is in unity with the Society’s testimony as to the nature of marriage.

Signed Date

of
address and telephone number

member of Area Meeting

Signed Date

of
address and telephone number

member of Area Meeting

**MARRIAGE ACCORDING TO THE USAGE OF THE
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS IN ENGLAND AND WALES**

Registering officer's certificate as required by the Marriage Act 1949 s.47(2)(b) to be produced by or on behalf of a non-member on giving the required notice to the superintendent registrar.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that
is a person duly authorised under the general rules of the Religious Society of Friends to proceed to the accomplishment of his/her marriage according to the usage of the said Society.

Signed this day of in the year

.....

Registering officer of Area Meeting

!

**MARRIAGE ACCORDING TO THE USAGE OF THE
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS IN ENGLAND AND WALES**

Registering officer's certificate as required by the Marriage Act 1949 s.47(2)(b) to be produced by or on behalf of a non-member on giving the required notice to the superintendent registrar.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that
is a person duly authorised under the general rules of the Religious Society of Friends to proceed to the accomplishment of his/her marriage according to the usage of the said Society.

Signed this day of in the year

.....

Registering officer of Area Meeting

E

On receipt of the completed Form A, and Forms B and C where appropriate, the registering officer, if assenting to the application, shall cause public notice of the intended marriage to be given at the close of the usual meeting(s) for worship of which the parties are members or, if not in membership, which they attend or which is nearest to their place(s) of residence. The registering officer shall complete part I and II of this Form E, in duplicate if the parties are members, attenders, etc., of different meetings and send the form(s) to the appropriate meeting(s). Objections, if any, will be sent direct to the registering officer who shall immediately inform the parties (16.30).

I

APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENTION

To the clerk or correspondent of Meeting:
There is an intention of marriage of which the details are set out below.
This is to ask you to give proper public notice of the intended marriage and to certify that this has been done on part III of this form which should be returned to me as soon as possible.

Signed this day of in the year

.....
of

Registering officer of Area Meeting

Part II of this form should be read aloud at the close of the usual meeting for worship as soon as possible after its receipt from the registering officer. As soon as the notice has been given part III of this form should be completed and the whole form returned to the registering officer.

II

NOTICE OF INTENTION OF MARRIAGE

Friends,
There is an intention of marriage between

.....
of

a member of Area Meeting +
not in membership +

and

of

a member of Area Meeting +
not in membership +

If any person has anything to object let timely information be given in writing to

.....
of

Registering officer of Area Meeting

III

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

To the registering officer:
The above notice of intention of marriage was given at the close of meeting for worship at

.....
on day, the of in the year

Signed

Clerk of Meeting.
(or other Friend by whom the notice was given)

+ Delete whichever is not appropriate.

E

On receipt of the completed Form A, and Forms B and C where appropriate, the registering officer, if assenting to the application, shall cause public notice of the intended marriage to be given at the close of the usual meeting(s) for worship of which the parties are members or, if not in membership, which they attend or which is nearest to their place(s) of residence. The registering officer shall complete part I and II of this Form E, in duplicate if the parties are members, attenders, etc., of different meetings and send the form(s) to the appropriate meeting(s). Objections, if any, will be sent direct to the registering officer who shall immediately inform the parties (16.30).

I

APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENTION

To the clerk or correspondent of Meeting:
There is an intention of marriage of which the details are set out below.
This is to ask you to give proper public notice of the intended marriage and to certify that this has been done on part III of this form which should be returned to me as soon as possible.

Signed this day of in the year

.....
of

Registering officer of Area Meeting

Part II of this form should be read aloud at the close of the usual meeting for worship as soon as possible after its receipt from the registering officer. As soon as the notice has been given part III of this form should be completed and the whole form returned to the registering officer.

II

NOTICE OF INTENTION OF MARRIAGE

Friends,

There is an intention of marriage between

.....

of

a member of Area Meeting +
not in membership +

and

of

a member of Area Meeting +
not in membership +

If any person has anything to object let timely information be given in writing to

.....

of

Registering officer of Area Meeting

III

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

To the registering officer:

The above notice of intention of marriage was given at the close of meeting for worship at

.....

on day, the of in the year

Signed

Clerk of Meeting
(or other Friend by whom the notice was given)

+ Delete whichever is not appropriate.

F

As soon as possible after the receipt of the completed Form A (and Form B and/or Form C where appropriate) the registering officer should complete part I of this form and send it to the clerk of the meeting competent to appoint the meeting for worship for the solemnisation of the marriage. As soon as the meeting's decision is known the clerk should complete part II (or inform the registering officer by letter if a meeting has not been appointed) and return the form intact to the registering officer. The registering officer will then complete part III of the form and send this part to the applicants.

I

REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT OF MEETING FOR WORSHIP

To the clerk of Area/Local Meeting
There is an intention of marriage between

.....
of

a member of Area Meeting +
not in membership +

and

of

a member of Area Meeting +
not in membership +

and it is desired, if convenient to Friends, that this marriage may be solemnised at

..... Meeting House

on day, the day of in the year at : o'clock

This is to ask whether a meeting for worship can be appointed to be held at this time, or at any other time by arrangement with the parties.

Signed Date

of

Registering officer of Area Meeting

II

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF MEETING FOR WORSHIP

This is to certify that a meeting for worship for the solemnisation of the above marriage has been appointed to be held at Meeting House

on day, the day of in the year at : o'clock

Signed Date

Clerk of Area/Local Meeting

+ Delete whichever is not appropriate.

To be detached and sent to the applicants

III

..... and

I am glad to inform you that a meeting for worship for the solemnisation of your marriage has been appointed to be held at Meeting House

on day, the day of in the year at : o'clock

Signed

Registering officer of Area Meeting

G

On receipt of Form F confirming the appointment of a meeting for worship the registering officer will complete part I of this form and send it to the clerk or correspondent of the meeting where the marriage is to be solemnised, who when the public notice of the meeting for worship has been given will complete part II and return the form to the registering officer. **Form G must be sent in good time for public notice to be given at the close of Meeting for Worship last held there preceding the day of solemnisation (Qfp 16.41).**

I

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING FOR WORSHIP

To the clerk of Meeting

A meeting for worship for the solemnisation of marriage between

.....
and

has been appointed to be held at Meeting House

on day, the day of in the year at : o'clock

Friends and attenders are hereby invited to attend this public meeting for worship.

Signed Date

Registering Officer of Area Meeting

Public notice of the above appointed meeting for worship must be given at the place at which it is to be held at the close of the usual meeting for worship last held there before the day of solemnisation (*Quaker faith & practice 16.41*).

II

CONFIRMATION OF THE PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING FOR WORSHIP

To the registering officer of Area Meeting

This is to confirm that public notice of the above meeting for worship has been given in accordance 16.41 of *Quaker faith & practice*.

Signed Date

Clerk of Meeting
(or other Friend by whom the notice was given)

When the marriage has been solemnised and registered the registering officer should report this to the area meeting by completing one copy of this form and sending it to the clerk of the area meeting. Where either party is a member of an area meeting other than the one within the bounds of which the marriage has taken place the registering officer shall report the marriage to the clerk of each such area meeting by completing additional copy(ies) of Form H and sending it (them) to the clerk(s) of the area meeting(s) concerned (16.51).

CERTIFICATE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

H

To the clerk of Area Meeting
I hereby certify that the marriage between

.....
a member of Area Meeting +
not in membership +
and
a member of Area Meeting +
not in membership +
was solemnised at Meeting House
on day, the day of in the year and has been legally registered.

.....
Registering officer of Area Meeting

CERTIFICATE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

H

To the clerk of Area Meeting
I hereby certify that the marriage between

.....
a member of Area Meeting +
not in membership +
and
a member of Area Meeting +
not in membership +
was solemnised at Meeting House
on day, the day of in the year and has been legally registered.

.....
Registering officer of Area Meeting

CERTIFICATE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

H

To the clerk of Area Meeting
I hereby certify that the marriage between

.....
a member of Area Meeting +
not in membership +
and
a member of Area Meeting +
not in membership +
was solemnised at Meeting House
on day, the day of in the year and has been legally registered.

.....
Registering officer of Area Meeting

+ Delete whichever is not appropriate.