

# Marriage according to the usage of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain



## Application for a Quaker marriage

To ..... and .....

The registering officer who has issued these forms is:

Name.....

Address .....

.....

Telephone: .....

Email address: .....

Registering officer of ..... Area Meeting

The officer will be pleased to advise or assist you in any matter of procedure connected with the marriage. The forms have been designed for use in England, Scotland and Wales. For civil partnership conversions, and also for marriages in the Isle of Man or the Channel Islands, the registering officer will advise on any differences of procedure.

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) has agreed to hold same-sex marriages, and to the conversion of civil partnerships to marriage (wherever legally possible), throughout Great Britain.

## Instructions

The Quaker marriage procedure is described in Chapter 16 of *Quaker faith & practice*. It is available online at <http://qfp.quaker.org.uk>. The most recent version was agreed at Yearly Meeting 2015.

**Form A** should be completed by both applicants.

**Form B/C (Part I)** should be completed by any applicant who is not in membership.

**Part II of Forms B/C** should be completed, when appropriate, in each case by two adult members of the Society who are able to recommend the applicant. The registering officer can advise on this process.

The forms should be returned to the registering officer of the area meeting in whose bounds the marriage will be solemnised. You should allow an absolute minimum of ten weeks before the date of the intended marriage, so that there is time for both the civil and the Quaker procedures to be completed.

You should expect to meet with the registering officer before your application is progressed, and you may be asked to take part in a meeting for clearness as part of your marriage preparations.

**Civil notice should not be given** until the registering officer agrees that a Quaker marriage can be held.

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

- apply to the appropriate registering officer for their marriage to be solemnised according to the usage of the Society as outlined above; this is done by completing Form A
- obtain support in writing from two adult Friends for each non-member applicant; this is done by completing Form B/C.
- give authorisation (via Form D) to the superintendent registrar for each non-member applicant, at the time when notice of marriage is given. (This is not required in Scotland.) If the registering officer assents to the applicant on Form B/C, Form D will then be issued
- give notice of intention to the (superintendent) registrar and obtain the certificate(s), schedule or licence, which must be sent to the registering officer without delay
- obtain a Quaker Certificate of Marriage, after consulting with the registering officer, to be completed in accordance with *Quaker faith & practice* (Qf&p 16.57–59).

Using Forms E to H, the registering officer will arrange for the necessary public notice of the intended marriage to be given. They will also apply to the appropriate meeting for a meeting for worship to be appointed, and will inform the couple when the meeting for worship for the solemnisation of their marriage has been appointed. Subsequently, they will inform the meeting that the marriage taken place. In England and Wales, the registering officer will complete the civil certificates and report the marriage to the civil authorities. In Scotland, the couple is responsible for informing the civil authorities that the marriage has taken place.

The Area Meeting, and Britain Yearly Meeting, keep parts of this information permanently as a historical record of marriage

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.

These forms need to be completed so that we can ensure that our marriages comply with the regulations for Quaker marriages agreed by Britain Yearly Meeting, which form Chapter 16 of our book of discipline: *Quaker faith & practice*, to which reference should be made for full regulations and instructions. In addition to that chapter, there is a handbook for registering officers, available for download at [www.quaker.org.uk/ro](http://www.quaker.org.uk/ro), which gives additional information.

# Quaker marriage Form A

This form is to be completed and signed in all cases by both applicants, each in the presence of a witness, and to be sent as soon as possible to the registering officer of the area meeting within whose auspices the marriage will take place



## Declaration of intention of marriage

To .....Area Meeting

I, ..... (Full name). Gender.....

of .....

..... (Address)

Telephone.....

Email address .....

Marital status ..... (e.g. single) Occupation .....

Age at planned date of marriage..... Date of birth.....

Child of	Parent one	Parent two
----------	------------	------------

Parents' full names:	.....	.....
----------------------	-------	-------

Occupations:	.....	.....
--------------	-------	-------

Address(es):	.....	.....
--------------	-------	-------

Please indicate if deceased	.....	.....
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I, ..... (Full name). Gender.....

of .....

..... (Address)

Telephone.....

Email address .....

Marital status ..... (e.g. single) Occupation .....

Age at planned date of marriage..... Date of birth.....

Child of	Parent one	Parent two
----------	------------	------------

Parents' full names:	.....	.....
----------------------	-------	-------

Occupations:	.....	.....
--------------	-------	-------

Address(es):	.....	.....
--------------	-------	-------

Please indicate if deceased	.....	.....
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hereby inform you that it is our intention to take each other in marriage.

It is our wish, if convenient to Friends, that our marriage may be solemnised at a meeting for worship  
at .....Meeting House/place  
on .....(Day of the week and full date)  
at.....(Time)†

And we both declare that

- we are clear of any other marriage commitments and;
- we have reached 18 years of age **OR** we are at least 16 years of age and are proceeding in this matter with the consent of our parents or guardians (**Delete as appropriate**)

First applicant:

Signed this ..... (Full date)

Signature of first applicant .....

Being not in membership **OR** a member of .....

..... Area Meeting (delete as appropriate)

Signature of one adult witness .....

Name and address of witness .....

.....

Second applicant:

Signed this ..... (Full date)

Signature of second applicant .....

Being not in membership **OR** a member of .....

..... Area Meeting (delete as appropriate)

Signature of one adult witness .....

Name and address of witness .....

.....

† If necessary the day, time and place may be left blank, but in this case particulars should be sent to the registering officer as soon as possible. The place will need to be agreed before any civil notice or other arrangements are made.

Quaker marriage  
Key facts  
For the use of the registering officer



About the couple	Applicant one	Applicant two
Name	.....	.....
(commonly known as)	.....	.....
Address	.....	.....
	.....	.....
Telephone	.....	.....
Email	.....	.....
Correspondence address if different from above	.....	.....
	.....	.....
Telephone	.....	.....
A member of	.....A M	.....A M
Not in membership	.....	.....
Attends meeting	Yes / No	Yes / No
Gender	.....	.....
Nationality, if not UK. (Non-UK citizens may need to follow additional steps when giving notice to the civil authorities.)	.....	.....

Names and address of clerks of local meetings (if one of the couple does not attend meeting, give details of the meeting nearest to where they live).

Local meetings for: (Names and contact details of the clerk or correspondent)	Applicant one	Applicant two
	.....	.....
	.....	.....
	.....	.....
	.....	.....
	.....	.....

Is this a civil partnership conversion? Yes / No      If yes, please contact the Recording Clerk.  
Is this is an urgent marriage?      Yes / No      If yes, please contact the Recording Clerk.

## To confirm in initial discussion with the couple

Has the couple booked the wedding venue (whether Quaker or non-Quaker)? Yes / No

Date and time of planned marriage confirmed (you may need to check this with meeting house wardens) Yes / No

.....  
Place of planned marriage confirmed Yes / No

Registration district of venue (if not a Quaker venue, see the RO Handbook for advice)

.....  
Has the couple booked any reception venue? Yes / No

If a meeting for clearness is to be held, record details here:

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Is the couple able to prove the end of any previous marriage/civil partnership?

They need to do so to give notice to the authorities

### *Planned marriages in England and Wales*

Date and place of appointment at Register Office for first applicant .....

.....  
and for second applicant.....

### *Planned marriages in Scotland*

Name of District to which the notice of marriage needs to be given.....

.....  
Approximate numbers expected at the meeting for worship .....

Wording options for the Quaker certificate and declarations discussed and agreed

.....  
.....  
Arrangements for providing the Quaker certificate are:

.....  
.....

## Keeping a record of the Quaker Forms

Form A (and B/C if required) sent .....(Date)

Form A (and B/C if required) returned .....(Date)

Form B/C (first applicant): RO to confirm both counter-signatories are in membership .... Yes

Form B/C (second applicant): RO to confirm counter-signatories are in membership ..... Yes

Form D issued to first applicant (if not in membership).....(Date)

Form D issued to second applicant (if not in membership) .....(Date)

*Form D is not needed for marriages in Scotland*

Form E sent to ..... Meeting on .....(Date)

Form E returned ..... (Date)

*Second Form E only required if the couple attend or are members of different meetings.*

Form E sent to ..... Meeting on .....(Date)

Form E returned .....(Date)

Objections received/no objections received.....

Form F. That body that grants permission for the marriage is .....Area/Local Meeting

(Local meetings can only grant permission for weddings as detailed in *Qf&p* 16.41)

Form F sent to clerk of .....

..... AM/LM on .....(Date)

Form F returned..... (Date)

Meeting for worship appointed for ..... (Day/date/time)

at ..... (Place)

Couple notified on Form F, Part III (or by letter or email) on .....(Date)

Form G sent to ..... Meeting on .....(Date)

Form G returned .....(Date)

For marriages at non-Quaker venues please obtain the Form G variant available from the RCO and follow the advice that comes with that form.

Form H sent to: Clerk of ..... AM where marriage solemnised

on .....(Date)

Area meeting minute recording the marriage received on ..... copy attached.

Second form H (If required) Clerk of ..... AM

of which first applicant is a member on .....(Date)

Third form H (If required) Clerk of ..... AM

of which second applicant is a member on .....(Date)

## Final preparations with the couple

Superintendent Registrar's Certificate(s)/Marriage Schedule received .....

Wording options for the Quaker certificate and declarations confirmed.....

Quaker Certificate of Marriage received / checked.....

How will it be brought to the meeting? .....

Other matters (including elders, certificate 'monitors', leaflets, names of initial witnesses):

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

## Final Quaker administrations

Details of marriage entered on quarterly returns ..... (Date)

(England and Wales only, but not for civil partnership conversions, remember to send back the authorities "blues" with the quarterly return)

Details of marriage entered on Annual Extracts of Marriage ..... (Date)

Annual extract of Marriage sent to Friends House..... (Date)

(All marriages and civil partnership conversions should be entered)

Date the paperwork can be destroyed.....

(five full years after the end of the calendar year of the marriage)





**Part I**

This part of the form should be completed by an applicant who 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 (overleaf). The registering officer can help with this, if required. The whole form should then be returned, together with Form A (and a second Form B/C if applicable) to the registering officer of the area meeting within whose bounds the marriage will take place.

**Application by someone not in membership**

To ..... Area Meeting

I, .....(Full name)

hereby declare that I wish to be married according to the usage of the Religious Society of Friends to.....(Full name)

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

Signed on .....(Full date)

..... Signature of applicant



**Part II**

This part of the form should be completed and countersigned by two adult members of the Society of Friends, neither of whom should be a close relative of either of the couple (*Qf&p* 16.27). They should, either separately or together, have discussed the application with the applicant and be satisfied that the applicant is in unity with the Society's testimony as to the nature of marriage (see *Quaker faith & practice* chapters 16 and 22).

**Statement of support**

We agree that permission to be married according to our usage may suitably be granted to .....(Full name)

with whom we have discussed this request. We are satisfied that the person named is in unity with the Society's testimony as to the nature of marriage.

Signed .....

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Telephone..... Email.....

Member of ..... Area Meeting

Signed .....

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Telephone..... Email.....

Member of ..... Area Meeting

Quaker marriage Form D  
**Marriage in England and Wales**  
**according to the usage of the**  
**Religious Society of Friends**



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 ..... (Name)

is duly authorised under the general rules of the Religious Society of Friends to marry

..... (Name) according to the usage of the said Society.

Signed this ..... (Full date)

..... (Name and signature)

Registering officer of ..... Area Meeting

Note that no certificate is able, or required, to be issued for a member of the Society of Friends getting married.

A certificate is not required/has also been issued (delete as required) for the person they are planning to marry.

Quaker marriage Form D  
**Marriage in England and Wales**  
**according to the usage of the**  
**Religious Society of Friends**



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 ..... (Name)

is duly authorised under the general rules of the Religious Society of Friends to marry

..... (Name) according to the usage of the said Society.

Signed this ..... (Full date)

..... (Name and signature)

Registering officer of ..... Area Meeting

Note that no certificate is able, or required, to be issued for a member of the Society of Friends getting married.

A certificate is not required/has also been issued (delete as required) for the person they are planning to marry.



Quaker marriage Form E  
**Application for public notice of  
Intention of marriage**



To the clerk or correspondent of ..... Local Meeting

**Part I**

Please would you ensure that the following **Notice of intention of marriage** (overleaf) is read out at the close of the next usual meeting for worship to be held (*Qf&p* 16.31). If more than one meeting is regularly held each week, then consult the registering officer. This is to comply with the law and the Quaker marriage regulations of Britain Yearly Meeting. It informs Friends that there is an intention of marriage of which the details are set out in the notice.

Notice has to be read out at the meetings to which each of the couple belong (or attend if not in membership). Where one of the people getting married does not attend meeting for worship, then notice has to be given at their nearest meeting.

Proper public notice of the intended marriage needs to be given at the meeting, and you need to certify that this has been done on Part III of this form, which should be returned to me as soon as possible.

If you have any questions about what to do, please contact me.

Signed ..... Date .....

Name .....

Telephone..... Email.....

Registering officer of ..... Area Meeting

Quaker marriage Form E  
**Application for public notice of  
Intention of marriage**



Part II

**Notice of intention of marriage**

Friends,

There is an intention of marriage between

.....

of .....

a member of .....

..... Area Meeting / not in membership (delete as appropriate)

.....

of .....

a member of.....

..... Area Meeting / not in membership (delete as appropriate)

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

..... (Name)

of .....

..... (Address)

Registering officer of .....Area Meeting

Part 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 of the week and full date)

Signed .....

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

Confirmation that this has been read out can be supplied to the registering officer by email, but the original does need to be returned to the registering officer by hand or by post.

# Quaker marriage Form F

## Request for appointment of meeting for worship



**This is an agenda item for the next business meeting** (Qf&p 16.41–16.43).

If no such meeting is planned before the date of the marriage, then please refer to *Quaker faith & practice* 16.44/16.45 for how to make decisions between meetings.

Part II of this form should be completed and the whole form returned to the registering officer.

### Part I

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 the meeting agrees, that this marriage may be solemnised at

..... Meeting House (or other place)

on ..... (day of the week and full date) at: ..... (Time)

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 couples.

Signed ..... Name: ..... Date.....

of .....

Telephone ..... Email .....

Registering officer of ..... Area Meeting

### Part II Confirmation of appointment of meeting for worship

This is to certify that by our minute number ..... a meeting for worship for the solemnisation of the above marriage has been appointed to be held at

..... Meeting House/or other place

on ..... (Day of the week and full date) at: ..... (Time)

Signed ..... Date .....

Clerk of ..... Area/Local Meeting

This confirmation can be passed to the registering officer by email in the first instance, but this whole form should be returned to them.

Quaker marriage Form F  
**Request for appointment of  
meeting for worship**



**Part III**

To:

..... and .....

Dear Friends,

I am glad to inform you that ..... Meeting has agreed to hold a meeting for worship for the solemnisation of your marriage at ..... Meeting House on ..... (Day of the week) ..... (full date) at: ..... (Time).

Please make sure that I receive the civil paperwork from you in good time before the marriage. If we have not already done so, we need to agree the wording of the Quaker certificate as soon as possible.

Signed .....

Registering officer of ..... Area Meeting

The wording of this part of Form F can be used as a basis for a letter or e-mail to the couple.



Quaker marriage Form G  
**Request for public notice of  
Meeting for worship**



**Part I**

To the clerk of ..... Meeting

Please would you read out the following notice to comply with the law and the Quaker marriage regulations of Britain Yearly Meeting. If you have any questions about what to do, please contact me.

<p><b>A meeting for worship for the solemnisation of marriage between</b> ..... and ..... has been appointed to be held at ..... ..... Meeting House on .....(Day of the week and full date) ..... (Time) Friends and attenders are hereby invited to attend this public meeting for worship. Signed .....Name:..... Date ..... Registering officer of .....Area Meeting Address..... .....</p>
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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 (*Qf&p* 16.47). If more than one regular meeting for worship is held each week, please contact the registering officer for advice.

**Part 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 with 16.47 of *Quaker faith & practice*.

Signed .....Date .....

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

The registering officer can be informed that the notice has been read out by email, but the form does need to be returned to them.



Quaker marriage Form H  
**Certificate of accomplishment**  
for the Area Meeting that is responsible for the marriage



When the marriage has been solemnised and duly registered the registering officer shall report it to the area meeting. The area meeting shall record by minute the receipt of such report with particulars of the membership of the couple, and the date and registration of the marriage.

In cases where either of the couple is a member of an area meeting other than the one under the auspices of which the marriage has taken place, the registering officer of the area meeting responsible for the marriage shall report it to the clerk of each such area meeting, which shall similarly record the particulars of the marriage by minute.

(Qf&p 16.63).

To the clerk of ..... Area Meeting

I hereby certify that the marriage between

.....

a member of .....

..... Area Meeting / not in membership (delete as appropriate)

and .....

a member of .....

..... Area Meeting / not in membership (delete as appropriate)

was solemnised at ..... Meeting House/place

on ..... (Day of the week and full date)

at: ..... (Time) and has been legally registered.

Please minute that this marriage has taken place at the next area meeting and send a copy of the minute to the registering officer.

This certificate should be kept with the minutes.

Signed ..... Name:..... Date .....

Registering officer of ..... Area Meeting



# Quaker marriage Form H

## Certificate of accomplishment



To report to another Area Meeting that one of their members has had a Quaker marriage.

When the marriage has been solemnised and duly registered the registering officer shall report it to the area meeting. The area meeting shall record by minute the receipt of such report with particulars of the membership of the couple, and the date and registration of the marriage.

In cases where either of the couple is a member of an area meeting other than the one under the auspices of which the marriage has taken place, the registering officer of the area meeting responsible for the marriage shall report it to the clerk of each such area meeting, which shall similarly record the particulars of the marriage by minute.

(Qf&p 16.63).

To the clerk of ..... Area Meeting

I hereby certify that the marriage between

.....

a member of ..... Area Meeting / not in membership (delete as appropriate)

and .....

a member of .....Area Meeting / not in membership (delete as appropriate)

was solemnised at ..... Meeting House/place

on ..... (Day of the week and full date)

at: .....(Time) and has been legally registered.

This certificate should be kept with the minutes.

Signed ..... Name:..... Date .....

Registering officer of ..... Area Meeting