



## A GUIDE TO GETTING MARRIED

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The following guide provides all the information you will need to organise your United Jewish wedding.



# MAZEL TOV!

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Getting married is an exciting time with lots to arrange and organise including a venue, caterers and of course the chuppah itself.

At the Catford And Bromley United Synagogue we're here to help you with the formalities of arranging your wedding, which requires authorisation from the Office of the Chief Rabbi. This leaflet is a guide to this process.

## WHEN SHOULD WE MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO HAVE OUR MARRIAGE AUTHORISED THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF RABBI?

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In order to be married through by the Catford And Bromley United Synagogue you will need to have your marriage authorised by the Office Of The Chief Rabbi. This should be done as soon as you have set the date, confirmed the venue and the marrying Rabbi.

Please contact Marriage Liaison on: 0208 343 6314 or email: [marriage@theus.org.uk](mailto:marriage@theus.org.uk) for further details.

## HOW DO WE GET A REGISTRAR'S CERTIFICATE FOR MARRIAGE?

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Up to twelve months before your wedding, each of you must visit your local Register Office to give notice of your intended marriage.

The Registrar will issue each of you with a certificate at the conclusion of the notice period (15 days). It is more practical to obtain this certificate prior to arranging your marriage authorisation meeting with the Office Of The Chief Rabbi.

\* Please note that you must both be resident in the UK for a minimum of seven days prior to the notice being given.



# DOCUMENTATION

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## WHICH DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION DO YOU NEED FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT?

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The following documents will be needed for your appointment with the Office of the Chief Rabbi.

### IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST MARRIAGE:

- The Jewish marriage contract (ketubah) of your parents or, if these are not available, the date and place of their marriage, assuming that this took place in the UK, under orthodox auspices.
- A full birth certificate (i.e. the version showing the names of your parents)  
The Registrar's certificates of marriage.
- A letter from a parent or other close relative living in the UK stating that you have never been married before.
- Where there has been a change of name since your parents' marriage, documentary evidence to that effect, (e.g. copy of deed poll).
- Ascertain your Hebrew names, where known, and those of your fathers. Also confirm whether your fathers are "Cohen", "Levi" or "Israelite".

### IF YOU HAVE BEEN MARRIED BEFORE:

- Your previous ketubah or the date and place of your previous marriage (in the UK).
- Either the death certificate of your late spouse, or where applicable, your Get certificate (Jewish divorce) and civil decree absolute.
- The Registrar's certificates of marriage  
A letter from a close relative resident in the UK stating that you have not remarried since becoming widowed / divorced.
- \* Please note that in all cases of query, doubt, absence of documents, documents issued abroad, applicants born or living abroad, or where your own circumstances may require further investigation, you should seek our advice immediately.



## FURTHER INFORMATION

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### WHAT FEES AND CHARGES ARE INVOLVED?

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A fee of £100 is payable when you have your appointment in respect of the Marriage Authorisation. Please make cheques payable to "Chief Rabbinate Trust".

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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- **Office of the Chief Rabbi - Marriage Liaison**  
020 8343 6314  
General enquiries & Marriage process
- **Office of the Chief Rabbi - Marriage Authorisation**  
020 8343 6313  
For guidance about your marriage and any technical questions or issues regarding Jewish Law and customs.
- **Marriage Enhancement Programme**  
07834 535 489  
One-to-one educational programme to tailor individual needs for engaged couples.
- **London Beth Din**  
020 8343 6270  
If planning a wedding abroad.
- **Kashrut Division**  
020 8343 6255  
For queries on caterers and venues.
- **The United Synagogue - Membership Department**  
020 8343 5687  
For all queries regarding United Synagogue Membership.
- **The United Synagogue**  
[www.theus.org.uk/marriage](http://www.theus.org.uk/marriage)  
Includes various topics you may find useful when planning your marriage.
- **The Office of the Chief Rabbi**  
[www.chiefrabbi.org](http://www.chiefrabbi.org)  
Access to many articles, thoughts and speeches to inspire us in our day to day lives.



# CHECK LIST

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## A SUGGESTED CHECK LIST TO GET YOU UNDERWAY:

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- Choose a suitable date.  

Fix the date with an orthodox Rabbi who is authorised to solemnise weddings.
- Choose the venue - please be aware that when choosing a non-synagogue venue, the Chief Rabbi's authorisation will only be granted if the wedding reception is being catered under the supervision of a recognised kashrut authority.
- Obtain Registrar's certificates from your local authority Register Office. These are required by the synagogue to register your marriage for civil purposes.
- 5 - 6 months before your wedding date contact the Office of the Chief Rabbi on 020 8343 6314 and speak to Marriage Liaison to arrange a personal meeting. At this meeting you will be required to produce evidence to establish your Jewish status and eligibility to marry in accordance with Jewish Law.
- Arrange for the groom to take out United Synagogue membership with the synagogue responsible for registering your marriage. This membership is transferable to any United Synagogue community of your choice after your wedding and is followed by a discounted membership scheme to start you on your way.
- Enquire about our Living And Learning Marriage Programmes.
- Our Marriage Enhancement Programme provides a wonderful Jewish perspective on the beauty and spirituality of Jewish Marriage. It is offered prior to the marriage ceremony. Our Newly Weds Programme is offered after marriage, to help guide couples through the transition of setting up and building their own Jewish home.