

Common Licence - especially for when one part of the couple is a foreign national

If your marriage is taking place too soon for Banns to be read, or one of the people marrying is a foreign national, then a Common Licence application may be appropriate for you. It is granted in the name of the Bishop of the Diocese you are marrying in, and he has discretion whether or not to grant it. In order to obtain such a Licence, one of you must have had his or her usual residence within the parish or district of the church in which the marriage is to take place, during fifteen days immediately preceding the application, or must have had his or her usual place of worship at the church.

Common Licences can only be granted for marriage to take place within the Diocese, and are only valid for three months. Application should be made to a surrogate for granting marriage licences in the Diocese, or to the Diocesan Registrar. The fee for a Common Licence is approximately £70.

Superintendent Registrar's Certificate

A Superintendent Registrar's Certificate is another alternative to having Banns read, and involves the publication of a notice at the Register Office of the district. The Partnership Priest marrying you has the discretion whether or not to accept a Superintendent Registrar's Certificate. The residence requirements are in effect the same as for Banns.

Bristol Register Office

The Register Office
The Old Council House
Corn Street
Bristol
BS1 1JG

(Entrance on Broad Street)

Telephone 0117 922 2800.

Fax 0117 903 8877.

Email: register.office@bristol.gov.uk