



Department of Justice

Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages

595 Collins Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
GPO Box 4332
Melbourne Victoria 3001
DX 210637

29 September 2014

Our ref: CD/14/417886*

Dear Marriage Celebrant

I write to inform you of changes to the *Marriage Regulations 1963* that came into effect from 1 July 2014.

A revised edition of the Guidelines on the *Marriage Act 1961* for marriage celebrants is now available on the Commonwealth Attorney-General's website at www.ag.gov.au. Please refer to this new version as some of the information in the old edition is now incorrect. The revised Guidelines reflect the changes to the Marriage Act as well as changes to the *Marriage Regulations 1963* made by the *Marriage Amendment (Celebrant Fees and Charges) Regulation 2014*, all of which came into effect on 1 July 2014.

The legislation provides for a transitional period of 6 months, during which time celebrants may continue to use the old prescribed forms. However, from **1 January 2015** all celebrants must use the new forms.

The New Forms

The approved forms are available from the Attorney-General's website. Please note that Form 15 remains a prescribed form in Schedule 1 to the Marriage Regulations. The forms that have been amended from the previous prescribed forms are the Notice of Intended Marriage (formerly Form 13), and the document outlining the obligations and consequences of marriage and stating the availability of marriage education and counselling (formerly Form 14A). Other forms have had spelling and date formatting updated.

More information on the new forms is available on the Attorney-General's website. All forms can be downloaded from this site except Form 15, the 'Declaration of no legal impediment to marriage' (formerly Form 14), and the 'Official certificate of marriage' (formerly Form 16), which can be purchased through CanPrint. You can visit the CanPrint Communications website on www.marriage.infoservices.com.au to order forms. CanPrint Communications is the only authorised supplier of the Form 15 Certificate of Marriage.

Alternate Forms

Marriage celebrants may generate or purchase marriage forms from other sources, but must ensure that such forms substantially comply with the forms specified in the Marriage Regulations 1963. If such forms do not comply, the Registry has the authority under the *Marriage Act 1961* to reject them.

Victorian Marriage Celebrant Online System

The marriage forms, except Form 15, are also available through the Registry's Marriage Celebrant Online system. Please visit our website on www.bdm.vic.gov.au to register. You can obtain further information about the Marriage Celebrant Online system by emailing the Registry at bdmmarriages@justice.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Erin Keleher

Director and Registrar

