



Marriage Celebrants programme – fees and charges

This fact sheet applies to all Commonwealth-registered marriage celebrants, including religious marriage celebrants.

Under cost-recovery, the following fees and charges are payable to the Attorney-General's Department as part of the Marriage Celebrants Programme. All fees and charges are administered in line with the [Australian Government Cost Recovery Guidelines](#).

Applications for exemptions from any of the below fees and charges (except for the registration application fee) are made through the self-service portal. Application for exemption from the registration application fee is made by email to the department. A non-refundable application processing fee of \$30 must accompany each application.

It is important that you carefully read the guidelines on the exemption you are applying for, to ensure that your obligations as a celebrant are met. Depending on the category for which you are applying for an exemption, you may be required to provide evidence to support your claims.

All fees and charges are non-refundable.

Celebrant registration charge - \$240

All Commonwealth-registered marriage celebrants must pay the celebrant registration charge each financial year to continue their registration, unless an exemption from the liability to pay the charge has been granted.

The annual charge is currently \$240. All marriage celebrants who are registered as at 1 July are liable to pay this charge. Invoices are normally sent in July.

If a person resigns as a marriage celebrant on or after 1 July and before the charge payment day without paying the celebrant registration charge, they will be exempt from liability to pay the charge in that financial year. No application or fee will be needed for this exemption to be granted.

Marriage celebrants who have an email address recorded on their account will receive their invoice via email. If an email address is not recorded, a hard copy will be sent to the postal address recorded. Invoices will also be available on the [self-service portal](#).

For more information, please see the fact sheet on the [Celebrant registration charge](#).

Marriage celebrant's registration application fee - \$600

Under the Marriage Regulations 2017, people seeking registration as a marriage celebrant must pay a registration application fee of \$600.

An application is taken to be made once the application is submitted, all supporting documents are received by the department, and the application fee has been received.

Applications to become a Commonwealth-registered marriage celebrant should be submitted via the [marriage celebrant online application form](#). This form allows you to upload supporting documents and make payment through a single process.

Celebrant registration charge exemption - \$30

An exemption from the annual celebrant registration charge for a financial year may be granted where:

- a) the applicant's principal residential address is in a remote area, and there is no more than one marriage celebrant whose principal residential address is:
 - (i) in that remote area, and
 - (ii) has the same postcode as the applicant's principal residential address; or
- b) the applicant will not live in Australia during the financial year; or
- c) the applicant will be unable to perform as a marriage celebrant for at least 6 months of the financial year because of serious illness or caring responsibilities.

If you wish to apply for an exemption from the celebrant registration charge, you should first read the [Guidelines for marriage celebrants seeking exemption from the celebrant registration charge](#).

Applications for exemption must be made **within 21 days** of the date of the celebrant registration charge invoice and must be accompanied by supporting information or documents and the charge exemption application fee. Applications made after this date will not be accepted.

Please note an application for exemption from the celebrant registration charge must be made separately to an application for exemption from Ongoing Professional Development (OPD) obligations.

Ongoing Professional Development (OPD) exemption – \$30

Commonwealth-registered marriage celebrants are required to undertake five hours of OPD activities each calendar year in accordance with the *Marriage Act 1961* and Marriage Regulations 2017.

Applications for exemption from OPD must be made in the calendar year for which the exemption is requested and must be accompanied by supporting documents or information and the professional development exemption application fee. Late applications (after **31 December**) will not be accepted.

Exemptions from completing OPD may be granted on the basis of exceptional circumstances. In accordance with the [Guidelines for exemption from ongoing professional development obligations](#), remoteness, financial hardship, short term or temporary illness, being inactive from your celebrant duties or long term absence from Australia are not considered grounds for granting an exemption from OPD. OPD activities are available online and via distance so should be able to be completed in these circumstances.

The Registrar of Marriage Celebrants may also exempt a person from undertaking OPD for a calendar year if complying with those requirements would be onerous because of the date the person became registered as a marriage celebrant. It is not necessary for a person to apply to the Registrar of Marriage Celebrants to receive this exemption.

From 1 January 2019, there will be an automatic exemption from undertaking professional development activities for a celebrant's first year of registration for celebrants registered from 1 January 2019 onwards if they were awarded a Certificate IV in Celebrancy in the 12 month period before the date of their registration. It will not be necessary to apply to the Registrar to receive this exemption.

Exemption from the marriage celebrants registration application fee - \$30

An exemption from the registration application fee may only be granted where:

1. the applicant's principal residential address is in a remote or very remote area, and
2. there is no more than one marriage celebrant whose principal residential address is:
 - (a) in that remote, or very remote area, and
 - (b) has the same postcode as the applicant's principal residential address.

This is the only circumstance in which an exemption to the marriage celebrant registration application fee can be granted under the Marriage Regulations 2017. If you wish to apply for an exemption from the marriage celebrant registration application fee, you should read the [Guidelines for application for exemption from the marriage celebrants registration application fee](#).

If a person has been granted an exemption from paying the celebrant registration application fee, they will automatically receive an exemption from paying the celebrant registration charge for that financial year. It is not necessary to apply to the Registrar of Marriage Celebrants to receive this exemption.