



## Civil Wedding Ceremony Requirements

The Municipality of Leamington offers civil marriage ceremonies at the Leamington Municipal Office located at 111 Erie Street North as well as at various locations throughout the County of Essex, Chatham-Kent and the City of Windsor. Please note any off-site location must be arranged by the applicants and mileage fees may apply.

The civil service lasts approximately twenty (20) minutes. When booking the civil ceremony, you should allow approximately one (1) hour for photo opportunities. Ceremonies are available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and French. If an interpreter is required, more time for the ceremony may be needed. Couples are responsible for providing the language interpreter.

Please note that same day service for civil ceremonies is not available.

Civil Wedding Ceremonies are subject to availability and approval Monday through Sunday 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

### Ceremony Fees:

During office hours	\$245.00 + 13% H.S.T. = \$276.85
During office hours (Non-English)	\$290.00 + 13% H.S.T. = \$327.70
After office hours and/or offsite	\$325.00 + 13% H.S.T. = \$367.25
After office hours (Non-English)	\$370.00 + 13% H.S.T. = \$418.10
Mileage beyond Leamington's border	\$0.72 per km + 13% H.S.T. will be charged
Cancellation fees may apply.	

### Cancellation Fees:

During office hours	\$30.00 of ceremony fee non-refundable
After hours/off site (with 24 hrs notice)	\$60.00 of ceremony fee non-refundable
After hours/ off site (without 24 hrs notice)	\$160.00 of ceremony fee non-refundable

### Requirements:

- Couples must purchase a valid Ontario Marriage Licence. A marriage licence may be purchased at the Leamington Municipal Office or at most municipal offices in Ontario. Refer to Marriage Licence Requirements on our website for more information. If the marriage licence is purchased in another municipality, it must be provided to staff no later than 1 week prior to the ceremony.
- The Municipality of Leamington does not provide witnesses for the ceremony. Couples must provide the two witnesses required according to section 25 of the *Marriage Act*. There is no set minimum age for a person to be a witness to a civil ceremony; however, the officiant must be satisfied that the person understands what he/she is signing.

## **Officiants and the Ceremony:**

Trained staff, designated by the Clerk, will act as officiants to solemnize the ceremony. The civil marriage service will be a non-denominational and solemn ceremony, which adheres to the requirements of the Marriage Act.

At the Municipal Office, ceremonies may be held in the Council Chambers (which can accommodate up to 50 guests) or in the Gallery in front of our 'living wall' (this location has limited seating). Photographers and/or videographers are allowed during the ceremony.

## **Marriage Ineligibility:**

Staff will not solemnize the marriage of any person who he or she knows or has reasonable grounds to believe lacks capacity to marry. Circumstances rendering a person ineligible for the civil marriage include:

- One or both parties are under physical or mental duress
- One or both parties fail to meet the age requirements (both parties must be at least 18 years old to get married in Ontario. Parties who are 16 or 17 years old may marry only if they have the consent in writing of both parents)
- The parties are related as grandparent, parent, child, grandchild, brother or sister
- One or both parties are currently married
- One or both parties are mentally ill or under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs and incapable of understanding the nature of the marriage contract and the duties, obligations and responsibilities that result from marriage. If the person solemnizing a marriage has any doubts as to the mental capacity of the parties, or one of the parties, he/she may refuse to perform the ceremony.

## **Gender:**

The Municipality of Leamington offers civil marriage services to all eligible couples, following the June 10, 2003, Ontario Court of Appeal decision, making same-sex marriages legal in Ontario.

## **Marriage Certificates:**

To find out how to register your marriage or obtain a marriage certificate, visit Service Ontario Services or call 1-800-461-2156.

## **Want to know more?**

For more information about marriage ceremonies contact the Clerk's office by email or call 519-326-5761.