



# Humanist Wedding

## Why a Humanist wedding?

- Having a Humanist wedding gives far more flexibility than a religious ceremony and is more personal than a civil ceremony. You can have your wedding whenever or wherever you choose. You can customise everything without restriction.

## Legalities

- Humanist weddings do not have legal status in England, Wales or Northern Ireland.
- Humanist Weddings performed in Scotland are recognised as legal.
- In England, Wales and Northern Ireland you must be legally married at the registry office. This can be done the day before or the day after your Humanist wedding.
- In order for the marriage to be recognised by law the only words that need to be said at the registry office are the:
  - **'Declaratory Words'** - "I do solemnly declare that I know not of any lawful impediment why I (your name) may not be joined in matrimony to (partners name)"
  - **'Contracting Words'** - "I call up these persons here present to witness that I (your name) do take thee (partners name) to be my lawful wedded wife (or husband)" (*this wording will vary slightly for couples forming a Civil Partnership*)
- You also need to formally identify yourselves to the registrar and sign the marriage/civil partnership register in front of two independent witnesses and a registrar.

## Humanist Celebrants

You can find out more about Humanist Weddings and find a celebrant at <https://humanism.org.uk/ceremonies/non-religious-weddings/>