Updated April 2018

The Code of Practice for Marriage Celebrants is contained in Schedule 2 of the Marriage Regulations 2017.

**1. APPLICATION OF THIS CODE OF PRACTICE**

This Code of Practice applies to Commonwealth registered marriage celebrants in Australia.

**2. HIGH STANDARD OF SERVICE**

A marriage celebrant must maintain a high standard of service in his or her professional conduct and practice. This includes (without limitation) ensuring the following:

(a) appropriate personal presentation for marriage ceremonies;

(b) punctuality for marriage ceremonies;

(c) accuracy in preparation of documents and in the conduct of marriage ceremonies.

**3. RECOGNITION OF SIGNIFICANCE OF MARRIAGE**

A marriage celebrant must recognise the social, cultural and legal significance of marriage and the marriage ceremony in the Australian community, and the importance of strong and respectful family relationships.

**4. COMPLIANCE WITH THE ACT AND OTHER LAWS**

A marriage celebrant must:

(a) comply with the requirements of the Marriage Act 1961 and the Marriage Regulations 2017   
 which apply to the marriage celebrant; and

(b) observe the laws of the Commonwealth and of any State or Territory in which the marriage   
 celebrant solemnises marriages; and

(c) avoid unlawful discrimination in the provision of marriage celebrancy services.

**5. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MARRIAGE CEREMONIES**

A marriage celebrant must respect the importance of the marriage ceremony to the parties and the other persons organising the ceremony. This includes (without limitation) the following:

(a) giving the parties information and guidance to enable them to choose or compose a marriage ceremony, including information to assist the parties to decide whether a marriage ceremony rehearsal is needed or appropriate;

(b) respecting the privacy and confidentiality of the parties, including by:

(i) arranging for appropriate facilities to interview parties; and  
(ii) dealing appropriately with personal documents and personal information; and  
(iii) maintaining appropriate facilities for the secure storage of records; and  
(iv) ensuring the return of all personal documents belonging to the parties as soon as practicable (unless it is necessary to keep the documents for the ceremony);(c) giving the parties information about how to notify the Commonwealth Attorney-General’s Department of any concerns or complaints they may have regarding the marriage services provided by the marriage celebrant.

**6 . KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS SERVICES**

A marriage celebrant must:

(a) maintain an up-to-date knowledge about appropriate family relationships services in the   
 community; and

(b) inform the parties to the marriage about the range of information and services available to   
 them to enhance, and sustain them throughout their relationship.