

The Secrets To Finding The Perfect Wedding Celebrant For You



Robert Whately
Authorized Marriage Celebrant (A2966)
Member of the Australian Federation of Civil Celebrants



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The Importance of A Quality & Experienced Celebrant

Your choice of celebrant is perhaps the most significant decision that you will make with regard to your wedding, for it is the celebrant who actually marries you to each other and who starts you out on your journey through life as a married couple.

Whilst you may have engaged a professional photographer and may have chosen the nicest surroundings in which to be married - it is the **beauty** and **elegance** of the ceremony that your family and guests will remember above anything else when they talk about your wedding in the years to come.



Celebrate Your Wedding In Style

Your wedding should be celebrated **in style**.

It should be unique and memorable, and while all celebrants are required to meet the same 'legal' requirements in registering your marriage, no two celebrants will go about the planning and presentation of your ceremony in the same way.

It is therefore important to choose your celebrant carefully, and within reason you should not make your decision based upon cost alone.

A **cheap ceremony** that cuts corners **is never the best** for such an important event as your wedding. You deserve the best. Your ceremony cannot be repeated.

Your celebrant should be able to listen to you and react to your needs, and to give you the confidence that your ceremony will be professionally prepared and conducted.

Experience Counts

Diversity of experience is a highly desirable asset.

A celebrant is more apt to identify with you and your needs if they have former experience with couples from your country of origin.

It has been my privilege to have married couples from many countries including: England, Scotland, Ireland, Switzerland, Germany, Japan, Philippines, Brazil, Sierra Leone, Spain, France, Thailand, Singapore, South Africa.



Considering The Essentials

Because you want the best celebrant that you are able to afford it may be prudent to consider the following points choosing a Marriage Celebrant.

- Do you want a **contemporary or traditional** ceremony, or do you want a simple and relaxed ceremony, or something different?
 - Does your celebrant have **lots of great ideas** and does he/she give you the impression that your marriage is as important to him/her as it is to yourselves?
 - Is the product that the celebrant is offering in tune with what you might want?
 - And if you change your mind about the content (or style) of your ceremony is your celebrant sufficiently **innovative and flexible** to adapt as well?
 - Does your celebrant have both a professional air as well as a **friendly approachable demeanour**?
 - Do you feel that you will be **welcome to contact your celebrant** about any issues regarding your ceremony and not be considered a nuisance or a bother?
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- Does your celebrant have a **clear speaking voice** and is an experienced public speaker. Will all your guests be able to hear the ceremony?
 - Does your celebrant **use a PA system**?

- Is the charge that the celebrant has quoted you earlier the total charge or are there **(hidden) extra charges** that might be levied later?

Should you decide to add elements to your ceremony will this involve an additional charge?

- Does your celebrant have **testimonials** from previous clients that you could have a look at? Does your celebrant have **photos** of recent weddings that he/she has conducted?
- Does your celebrant take bookings for **more than one ceremony per day?**
- **What happens if your ceremony runs over time** or there is an inordinate delay in agreed upon time for the start of the ceremony?
- What happens if after paying any required deposits your **ceremony needs to be cancelled?**

How To Ensure The Credibility of Your Celebrant

- You might like to ask your celebrant – “How do we know that you are an authorised marriage celebrant?”

There are ‘**unauthorized**’ **celebrants** who are not approved to officiate at weddings.

You should ask to see your celebrant's official **authorization certificate** from the Attorney General's Department.

The answer you should receive is that your celebrant's name is listed on the Attorney General's website <http://www.ag.gov.au/celebrants> - that the registration number the celebrant will quote matches the number against his/her name on the web-site.

When you meet your celebrant for the first time are they able to **show you their letter of authorisation** (which should bear the same registration number).

- Will your celebrant permit you to have an input into the preparation of your ceremony?

Can you **write your own vows**? Will you know what your celebrant intends to say at your ceremony?

In what ways will your ceremony be personalised?

- If you have children what suggestions does the celebrant have for including them in the ceremony?
- Will you feel comfortable working with your celebrant in preparing the content of your ceremony? Does your celebrant offer you a **selection of preambles** (The wedding address) to choose from?
- Does your celebrant inspire you with a feeling of confidence?
- Does your celebrant have a professional manner?

If you feel comfortable with the responses your celebrant has given to these considerations then you have probably just made the most important of all the decisions you will make in regard to the planning of your ceremony – so go ahead – give him or her a call and book your location, time and date.

Contact Details

If you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact me (Robert Whately) on:

Phone: (08) 9307 6121

Mobile: 0423 167 662

Email: robert@marriagecelebrantwa.com.au

I hope to be able to assist you in having a wonderful day.

About The Author



Robert Whately is an Authorized Marriage Celebrant (A2966) and a Member of the Australian Federation of Civil Celebrants.

Robert is a highly experienced celebrant and one of the few celebrants able to offer **either a civil or a religious ceremony**.

Robert specialises in ceremonies in Perth and throughout Western Australia.

Testimonials

Dear Robert,

What words can ever tell the joy that is ours, knowing that you shared the beginning of our life together.

~ Love Kelly & Shane.



Dear Robert,

Thank you so much for your kind and gentle guidance for our marriage.

~ Werner & Madelein. (Switzerland)



Dear Robert,

Thank you for sharing in our celebration. Thank you for a wonderful ceremony. It was a great day and everything went smoothly.

~Kaite & Troy.

