



## Comparing Types of Wedding Ceremony

so much planning goes into a wedding but one of the most important bits can be down to pot luck on the day...

Ceremony Features	Independent Celebrant	Registrar (sometimes called a Registrar Celebrant)
<b>Legal status</b>	<b>None</b> - it is a <b>symbolic</b> ceremony, not a legal one (i.e. the couple will <b>not</b> be married as a result)	A civil marriage ceremony is legally binding and couples are married as a result
<b>The celebrant</b>	You choose the right celebrant for you You get to know them months before your ceremony You have access to them whenever you need them	Unless you can ask for someone that you know is a good registrar, you get whoever is on the rota - you usually don't meet them till about an hour before your ceremony
<b>Personalisation</b>	Infinite - the sky's the limit! Tell <b>your</b> stories, have funny bits and poignant bits Include whatever words, music and rituals that are meaningful to you (e.g. personal vows; handfasting; blessings; prayers; candle ceremony; etc.) Involve your family and guests (and even your pets, if you like)	Limited to the choice of three sets of declaratory and contracting vows, and council-approved promises, readings and music  There may be little or no opportunity to include any personal content
<b>Exclusions, restrictions and limitations on ceremony content</b>	The celebrant must not give the impression that a legal ceremony is taking place  Some limitations in the choice of wording - legal wording must be avoided, but suitable alternatives can be used (If the couple are <b>not</b> legally married beforehand, they cannot be presented as if they are married - we'd say "the happy couple" instead of "Mr & Mrs X")  Otherwise, there are <b>no</b> restrictions	Religious content is not allowed in the words or music used at your ceremony  Some restrictions about decorations on the table for signing the legal paperwork  There is no opportunity to rehearse with the registrar
<b>Locations</b>	Indoors or outdoors: on a beach; in woodland; in your back garden; under the stars; on a bus, train, or boat...  Anywhere you like, as long as you have the necessary permission to hold your ceremony there	A civil marriage ceremony can only take place at a register office or at venue approved by the local authority ("approved premises")
<b>Cost</b>	Depends on your requirements, but prices start from £400	Fixed cost depending on the local authority fee structure
<b>Ceremony length</b>	Up to 30 minutes	Approx 10 – 20 minutes

**Note:** Ceremonies designed and conducted by Calluna Ceremonies are symbolic and are **not legally binding**