

Guidance for the proforma letter to Superintendent Registrars from clergy for applications involving foreign nationals without EU Settled or Pre-Settled Status

Attached is a proforma letter which can be used by clergy when writing a letter of support for couples involving a foreign national without EU Settled or Pre-Settled Status to take with them when they serve notice for a Superintendent Registrar's Marriage Schedule.

The letter can be dropped into the headed notepaper of clergy or the church and completed as follows:-

Heading

To assist the Civil Registrars in knowing the letter does relate to the couple serving notice, it would be helpful to put their full names and address(es) in the heading of the letter, as well as the name and parish of the church where the wedding is taking place, the address of the church and the date of the couple's wedding.

First paragraph

After receiving feedback, we have inserted a sentence required by the Civil Registrars to enable an application to proceed. The parish name should be inserted in the space provided. We also refer to all the relevant legislation, for the avoidance of doubt.

Qualifying Connection(s)

Although the Civil Registrars do not need to know which specific qualifying connection the couple has with the church or parish, they do need to know the couple have at least one to enable them to marry in the relevant church. We thought a tick box system would be helpful so that the relevant qualifying connection(s) can be indicated easily and the Civil Registrars will know the incumbent or minister taking the service has seen the appropriate paperwork or established there is a qualifying connection.

Validity Period

Marriage Schedules state the date on which a marriage is due to take place as well as a date by which a marriage must be solemnised if it is not possible to proceed on the planned date, for any reason. Marriage Schedules are now automatically printed with a validity period of a maximum of twelve months.

Divorce

The Civil Registrars are aware that clergy can conscientiously object to a marriage proceeding in their church because of divorce. We have, therefore, included an additional sentence so that the minister taking the service can indicate their agreement to marry the couple if a previous marriage has ended in divorce. Clergy will continue to need to use the Marriage in Church after Divorce questionnaire, but it does not need to be supplied to the Civil Registrars.

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