



Naming ceremony

The world and the people in it are changing. Whilst many people still hold strong beliefs and favour a formal religious welcome for their child, there is an increasing demand for other alternatives.

What is a naming ceremony?

A naming ceremony is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the birth of a child, to welcome adopted children or children from previous relationships and make them feel part of your family. This happy occasion is a unique opportunity for everyone to feel involved as they promise love and support for the new arrival and their parents.

Please note: the ceremony has no legal status and may not be used to change a child's name.

Can I choose my ceremony?

Of course you can. Each ceremony is tailored individually. You will work closely with one of our celebrants, choosing options available to create your own special ceremony which your family will remember and treasure in the years that follow, as your children grow.

Who may arrange a ceremony?

Any parent, legal guardian or person with legal responsibility for the child/children may arrange a ceremony. Parents do not have to be married to do so.

What happens at a naming ceremony?

Each ceremony is divided into sections giving you the chance to create something personal and very special.

- Introduction and welcome
- Naming of child / children
- Parents promises

- Grandparents / supporting adults promises
- Readings and music
- Signing and presentation of certificate
- Closing words

You do not need to include all these in your ceremony, it is designed to reflect your wishes and be as simple or as complex as you wish.

You will be presented with a commemorative certificate as a keepsake of your ceremony and may wish to pay for extra certificates for grandparents and other guests.

May we have religious references in the ceremony?

Yes, we can include small readings if you wish.

Where can I hold a ceremony?

At any of our main register offices in the county and also at venues approved by the County Council.

Our list of approved venues is available at www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/registrars or by phoning 0300 500 80 80.

Contact information

Phone: 0300 500 80 80

Web: www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/registrars

We offer a wide range of ceremonies which may be of interest to you or people you know, including civil marriages, civil partnerships, renewal of vows and civil funerals.