

## Contacting us

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**Nottinghamshire  
County Council**

# Civil Partnership

## Registration Service



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Nottinghamshire Registration Service offers a wide range of ceremonies which may be of interest to you or people you know. These include ceremonies for Reaffirmation of Vows, Naming, Civil Funerals, Civil Partnerships and Marriages.

Further information is available from any of our offices or visit [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk)

Nottinghamshire Registration Service is pleased to offer the opportunity for same sex couples to make a formal, legally recognised commitment to each other.

### What is a civil partnership?

The Civil Partnership Act 2004 provides same sex couples with the facility to gain legal recognition of their relationship.

### How do we form and register our civil partnership?

A civil partnership is formed once the couple have signed the relevant legal document in the presence of a registration officer and two witnesses.

You must both be of the same sex, over 18 (consent will be needed if under this age), not related to each other, and not in an existing marriage or civil partnership.

If you live in the county of Nottinghamshire, you can give notice of your intention to register a civil partnership at any Nottinghamshire register office.

All register offices operate on an appointment system.

The register office will inform you of documents that will be required when you give notice.

### Where can we form our civil partnership?

A civil partnership can be formed at any register office in England and Wales or at any premises already approved by the local authority for marriages and civil partnerships. In Nottinghamshire the ceremony will be conducted by a registrar employed by Nottinghamshire Registration Service.

A list of venues for Nottinghamshire can be obtained from your local office (address and numbers overleaf) or via the Nottinghamshire County Council website [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk)

### Can we book a date and time for a formation of our partnership before giving notice?

Yes, it is advisable to do so. Contact the register office in the district where you wish to form your civil partnership to make a provisional booking.

### Can we have a ceremony as part of this legal process?

Although there is no legal requirement to go through any sort of ceremony, Nottinghamshire County Council does offer a ceremony as an optional addition to the legal registration for those couples who wish to do so, at no extra cost.

To ensure that your formation is a special and unique occasion, a registrar will work closely with you to create an individual ceremony.

You may want to select words, readings, poems and music which have a special meaning and you may want to choose a role for friends or family within the ceremony. The ceremonies will be secular and must not contain any religious references.

