Marriage Certificate Help Sheet

**Age:**
Please note that the age given by the bride and groom at the time of marriage, is only as accurate as they believe it to be.

**Name and Surname:**
These are the names given by the bride and groom at the time of their marriage.

**Occupation:**
Bride and groom’s occupation at the time of marriage.

**Heading:**
This tells you where the marriage took place. The district name is usually repeated at the bottom of the certificate.

**Name and profession of father:**
Please note that with the exception of an adoptive father, the name entered in this column, must be that of the birth father.

**Date of Marriage**

**Entry number in the marriage register.**

**Residence at the time of marriage:**
Until 1995, for a marriage to take place in a register office, one of the couple had to live within that registration district. Please note that this rule did not always apply to couples marrying in a parish church.

**Condition:**
This refers to the marital status at the time of marriage, eg, bachelor/spinster, widow/widower or previous marriage dissolved.

**Signatures of Witnesses:**
This could be marked with an ‘X’ if the person could not write.

**Signatures of Witnesses:**
These are the initials of the person who produced the certificate.

**Signature of Superintendent Registrar**

**Signature of Registrar**

**Entry number in the marriage register.**
Column 1: When married

- date of marriage

Column 2: Name and surname

- names given by the bride and groom at the time of their marriage

Column 3: Age

- the age given by the bride and groom at the time of marriage, is only as accurate as they believe it to be
- the ages can be useful when calculating a year of birth. ‘Full’ may be recorded as the age and this indicates that the age was 21 or over

Column 4: Condition

- marital status at the time of marriage, e.g. bachelor/spinster, widow/widower or previous marriage dissolved

Column 5: Rank or profession

- bride and groom’s occupation at the time of marriage, or last known occupation. Sometimes the bride has no occupation stated

Column 6: Residence at the time of marriage

- until 1995, for a marriage to take place in a register office, one of the couple had to live within that registration district. Couples marrying in a parish church needed to live in the parish in which they were marrying

Column 7: Father’s name and surname

- this information assists when tracing birth entries of the bride/groom
- if a line is drawn through this column it indicates that this information was not given at the time of the marriage

Column 8: Rank or profession of father

- this information assists when tracing birth entries of the bride/groom
- if a line is drawn through this column it indicates that this information was not supplied at the time of the marriage