

HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR CELEBRANT

What kind of marriage ceremony do you want? Are you expecting the best, or maybe at this stage you haven't thought much about it. Here is a good place to start.

You are making a large emotional and financial investment to ensure that your marriage ceremony is a memorable one.

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Your marriage celebrant has a central role, and a great deal of distress can be caused by mistakes or unprofessional services and can lead to complaints from marrying couples.

It's no secret that the general standard of marriage ceremonies delivered by a many of the 8,500 Commonwealth registered marriage celebrants leaves a lot to be desired. Don't believe me? Talk to a few professional wedding photographers.

Great marriage ceremonies are delivered by great marriage celebrants. But how do you know if you are talking to a great celebrant?

Listed below is what your celebrant must do if you are to enjoy a memorable ceremony. Few celebrants have the skill, the experience, and the presentation skills to deliver across all aspects of your ceremony.

1.	Designs a ceremony that has the following elements	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Surprise and delight!2. Humour – people laugh3. Fun4. Interactive and engaging – your guests become involved5. Unusual and unexpected – elements that your guests have not experienced before6. Emotional – takes your guests on an emotional roller coaster
2.	Designs a ceremony that is authentic to your guests and feels like you	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The ceremony is a reflection of you2. The ceremony feels like you to you and your guests3. Tells your audience about you, who you are and what you stand for as a couple.
4.	Looks the part	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Dresses well2. Has a stage presence3. Commands attention
5.	Knows how to run a show The top marriage celebrants usually have performing arts experience	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Has “stage presence” and people skills. Presents your ceremony with style and flair2. Quickly builds rapport with your guests3. “Works the audience” before the bride arrives4. Sets the tone for your ceremony5. Has a mature, confident, accomplished and friendly manner
6.	Takes responsibility for your ceremony. If you have a great celebrant, all you have to do is turn up!	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Manages the flow of your ceremony like a stage director2. Acts as your Master of Ceremonies for your marriage ceremony3. Smoothly overcomes any unexpected hiccups4. Anticipates problems before they become a problem
7.	Completes your ceremony on a high note. Sets the tone for you wedding reception.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The high note is the platform for the rest of your wedding day2. Your guests feel good about themselves and about you3. Your guests are telling you that your ceremony was the best ceremony, even awesome!4. You feel great!

MARTIN MORONEY JP

Civil Marriage Celebrant and MC
Choose an expert if you want an expert result

	6 QUESTIONS TO CHECK OUT YOUR PROSPECTIVE MARRIAGE CELEBRANT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.	<p>What is your background? <i>The best marriage celebrants have professional experience of dealing with people. Too many ceremonies are “wooden”, awkward, over formal, and stiff. You wouldn’t want that for your ceremony. Celebrants with performing arts backgrounds tend to shine. The stage presence of your marriage celebrant is their most important attribute for your success.</i></p>		
2.	<p>How many weddings do you do? <i>Like any high-performance professional activity, it takes practice to make perfect. Would you go for a flight in a friend’s aeroplane if they only flew it 5 times a year?</i></p> <p><i>Celebrants who do a lot of marriage ceremonies, say more than 30 per year, are more likely to have the, confidence, the systems, the equipment, the motivation, and the skills to deliver a great result – and a reputation to protect. It will take the edge off your ceremony, even ruin the effect, if your celebrant is not crisp and confident.</i></p>		
3.	<p>Do you have a professional sound system? Will you play our ceremony music? <i>Venue systems and borrowed or rented systems often fail in use, because the celebrant is unfamiliar with the equipment – frequently leading to great disappointment and upset. Disaster actually.</i> Do not under any circumstances even consider engaging a marriage celebrant who does not own their own professional sound system. <i>Some celebrants will play your ceremony music (as opposed to one of your guests) It gives a performance edge if your celebrant controls your ceremony music.</i></p>		
4.	<p>Do you have professional indemnity, copyright, and liability insurance? And are you a member of a professional celebrant association? <i>Only approximately one in four celebrants have insurance cover. Only one in three celebrants are members of a professional celebrant association. Membership of a professional association is important for a celebrant to keep up to date with legislation and to hone their professional skills.</i></p>		
5.	<p>Do you have a track record of success? Could you please give us a reference from a photographer? Could we please call the photographer? <i>Professional wedding photographers have seen it all! Of all the professionals in the bridal industry, photographers can tell you more about the performance of a celebrant than anybody.</i> <i>Get a reference and ask the photographer “If you were getting married, would you use this celebrant?”</i></p>		
6.	<p>What do you do to guarantee that we will enjoy a dynamic and engaging experience? <i>Memorable ceremonies are memorable because they surprise and delight. Is this celebrant giving us ideas that we have not thought about, ideas that we have never heard before?</i> <i>If you are surprised and delighted, then your guests will similarly be surprised and delighted.</i></p>		

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