

INVOLVEMENT OF OTHERS IN MARRIAGES SOLEMNISED BY MINISTERS OF RELIGION (NSW)

When a marriage is being solemnised by a minister of religion who is an authorised celebrant, and the couple wants someone other than the minister of religion to also be involved in the ceremony, the minister of religion should ensure that they have the following minimum role:

- consent to be present as the supervising authorised celebrant and to be at the ceremony in that capacity;
- be part of the ceremonial group or in close proximity to it;
- make their presence as the authorised celebrant known to the assembled parties, witnesses and guests;
- be available to intervene (and exercise the responsibility to intervene) if events demonstrate the need for it during the ceremony;
- be responsible for ensuring that the marriage ceremony is carried out according to law, including that the marriage is solemnised according to a form and ceremony recognised as sufficient for that purpose by the religious body or organisation of which the authorised celebrant is a minister (subsection 45(1) of the Marriage Act);
- if they are a Commonwealth registered marriage celebrant say the words required by subsection 46(1) of the Marriage Act in the presence of the parties, the formal witnesses and the guests before the marriage is solemnised;
- receive and sign the papers required by the Marriage Act, including receiving the NOIM and sighting the supporting documents each party is required to produce; *and*
- register the marriage with the appropriate BDM as required under the Marriage Act.

Information supplied by:

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