



STANDARDS FOR CIVIL MARRIAGE CEREMONIES - PUBLIC REGISTRY

Version 3.0
Effective from 4th August 2021

Article 15 (1) of the Marriage Act (Cap. 255 of the Laws of Malta), requires that “A civil marriage shall be contracted in the presence of the Registrar, or of an officer of the Marriage Registry authorised by the Registrar to officiate at marriages, and of the witnesses required.” This article must be applied in accordance with the directives issued by the public health authorities.

These mandatory conditions are issued under the Public Health Act Chapter 465 of the Laws of Malta and require strict adherence. Failure to comply with these conditions will lead to enforcement proceedings as provided for in the Act.

The rules issued by the Superintendent of Public Health for civil marriage ceremonies are the following:

1. These rules are restricted to the ceremony required under Article 15 (1) of the Marriage Act (Cap. 255 of the Laws of Malta).
2. Protective masks must be worn **throughout** the ceremony and by all the persons present, including the couple and witnesses. The only exception is that, if fully vaccinated, the couple are allowed to remove their masks during exchange of vows only.
3. A distance of two metres must always be maintained between the Registrar and the Celebrator and the group of couple and witnesses. This shall apply throughout the ceremony.
4. At no time during the ceremony should there be more than the number of persons required by the Marriage Act (the couple, witnesses and the Registrar).
5. No ceremony shall be held at a place which has been closed down by the Closure of Places Open to the Public Order, 2021 and its



subsequent amendments issued by the Superintendent of Public Health.

6. No person attending the ceremony may approach the couple and the Registrar within two metres.

7. These rules shall comply at all times with the requirements of the Organised Mass Events Regulations, 2021 and their subsequent amendments issued by the Superintendent of Public Health from time to time and shall remain in force until such Regulations are repealed.