

Scottish Registers - an Intro

In Scotland each district has a register of Births, Deaths, Marriages, Civil Partnerships, and Still-births. At the registration a register page is produced which is signed by informant(s), with the exception of the marriage or civil partnership where a schedule is signed at the ceremony and returned to the registration office and the register page signed by the registrar only. Any certificates are known as extracts as they are extracted from the original register. Registrars also have a register of corrections (RCE) which includes changes of name and any subsequent amended entries must have the correction included.

Registration in Scotland has always independent of the UK government. Legal registration began in 1855 (and our association 10 years later in 1865). National Records of Scotland govern the process, Registrars are employed by the 32 local authorities across Scotland.

Documents issued

Births

Two extracts can be issued from a birth register. An abbreviated extract contains details of the child only and is issued free of charge at the registration. A full extract (£10) can be issued later and contains details of the parents and their marriage if married to each other. Should the parents marry later, the birth can be re-registered to reflect this. We also issue a document to assist the parents in registering their baby with a medical practice.

(Introduce Birth extract)

Heading

1. Forename(s) and surname(s)
2. Sex
3. When born
4. Where born
5. Date and place of parents' marriage
6. Mother's forename and surname
7. Mother's maiden surname
8. Mother's usual residence
9. Mother's occupation
10. Father's forenames and surname
11. Father's occupation
12. Signature and qualification of informant(s)
13. Registration date
14. Registrar's signature
15. Annotations

(please note; certificate details are updated occasionally but older and newer ones remain in circulation)

Still-births

The extract from these can only be issued with the permission of the Registrar General.

(Introduce Still-birth extract)

As birth except for sp.12

Deaths

Like births two forms of extract are available. Abbreviated and full. Abbreviated is free if issued at the registration. The full extract gives details of the medical cause as well as occupation, spouse(s) and parents of the deceased. We also issue documents to notify various public agencies such as pensions. More recently we notify these agencies on behalf of the family.

(introduce death extract)

Heading

1. Forename(s) and Surname(s)
2. Sex
3. Occupation
4. Date of Birth
5. Age
6. Marital or Civil Partnership Status
7. When died
8. Where died
9. Usual Residence
10. Cause of Death and Certified Medical Practitioner
11. Spouse(s) /Civil Partner(s)
12. Father
13. Mother
14. Signature of informant
15. When registered
16. Signature of registrar

(please note; certificate details are updated occasionally but older and newer ones remain in circulation)

Marriages

An extract (certificate) can be produced from the marriage register. A schedule is produced from the information supplied by the couple on the statutory M10 forms and it is signed in fountain pen (black ink) at the ceremony by the couple, celebrant and witnesses. This is then returned to the issuing office where the event is registered and the following extract produced. This extract is issued for a fee (currently £10)

(introduce marriage extract)

Heading

1. When

2. Where
3. Names
4. Occupations
5. Marital or Civil Partnership Status
6. Date of Birth
7. Country of birth
8. Usual Residence
9. Father's details
10. Mother's details
11. Person Solemnising with designation
12. Witnesses
13. When registered
14. Registrar's signature

(please note certificate details are updated occasionally but older and newer ones remain in circulation)

Civil Partnerships.

These are increasingly rare as for same sex couples only who can now marry, The Scottish Government is now considering the future but for paperwork purposes it follows the pattern of a marriage.

(talk through marriage extract)

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Certificate of No Impediment (CONI)

A document issued to couples or one party who must reside in Scotland to show that they are not married or in a civil partnership in Scotland and are therefore considered free to marry as far as Scottish records are concerned.

News

Marriage celebrants

In Scotland we have two ceremony types. Civil, conducted by a registrar and Religious/Belief, conducted by a minister, priest or other person authorised to do so. This includes humanists . We have a few people who do not conform to the rules, including training companies and organisations suspected of making a profit. If we suspect this has or will happen we report to the Registrar General.

National Registration service

There may be changes to the model that I mentioned in the intro. It's still under discussion.

The future of Civil Partnerships.

There are 3 options

1. Continue as before,
2. Make them available for opposite sex couples or
3. End for new Civil Partnerships.

No. 2 is the most likely currently and there is talk of calling them Mixed Sex Civil Partnerships but nothing is finalised.

Brexit

This will affect marriages as couples from all over the world marry in Scotland. New visa requirements were put in place in 2014 for couples subject to immigration control so this could affect couples from EU countries if they become subject to immigration control in the UK. If couples do not have the correct visa The Home Office (Government department responsible for internal affairs) can extend the minimum notice period that couples must give (currently 28 clear days) to 70 days if they suspect the marriage may be a sham to evade immigration rules.

What will happen with Brexit, I don't know.

EU regulation 1191/2016

Apostilles

Scotland does not, request apostilles on documents relating to registration so nothing will change here.

International versions of certificates.

Couples can now obtain an international version of extracts. To get this we contact National Records of Scotland who issue the document. A fee is charged which is the same as any extract.