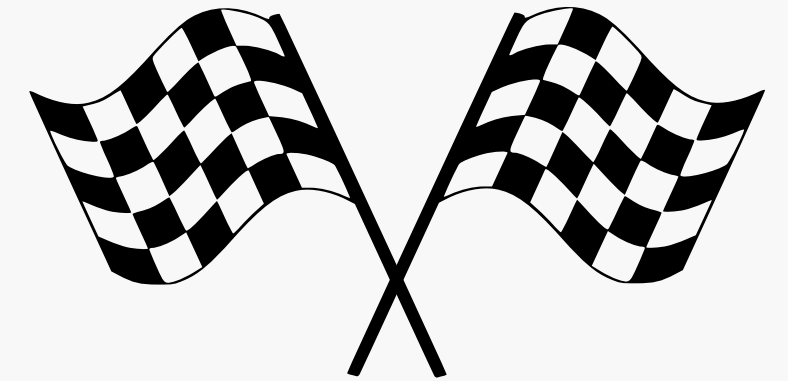




Pit-Stop EXTRA

4th August 2026

Wedding Law Reform Briefing





Tonight's Team



Julia Hawkes

**Professional Mentor
(Wedding Celebrants)**

Co-Host - Wedding Law Reform
Briefing



Sam Goodchild

Founder & Community Leader
Host - Wedding Law Reform Briefing



Jon Matson-Higgins

**Professional Mentor
(Funeral Celebrants)**
Co-Host - Wedding Law Reform
Briefing



Wedding Law Reform

- Key Changes Proposed
- Impact on Celebrants
- Timeline
- Opportunities
- Practical Action

Key Proposed Changes

- Venue- based system to officiant-based system
- New Dignity Framework
- Open Door requirement removed
- Two-stage notice process

New Dignity Framework

See Chapter 4

- Solemnity, legality and social importance
- Location
- Conduct and Content of Ceremony

New Dignity Framework

Dignity Standard

- Express free and informed consent
- NO distractions / trivialisation
- Seriousness & significance of marriage
- Safety

New Dignity Framework

Four Factors - Location

- Separateness
- Privacy
- Professional Duty
- Personal Significance

New Dignity Framework

Chapter 4

- Q14 - consumption food or drink
- Q15 - 'gimmick based' acts
- Q 16 - religious / belief based content
- Q 17 - Registrars not allowed to include belief based content

Key Proposed Changes

- Venue- based system to officiant-based system
- New Dignity Framework
- **Open Door requirement removed**
- **Two-stage notice process**

Officiants

Independents AND Humanists

Responsibility

- Upholding dignity
- Approving location - Chapter 5
- Agreeing conduct and content
- Ensuring consent given - Chapter 3 (p.34)

Officiants

Accountability

- Subject to monitoring
- Accountable to membership organisation
/ regulator
- Record-keeping

Officiants

Training

- Recognised training (Ofqual approved)
 - Q23 - Free text
- Legal Training
- Ongoing professional development



The likely timeline

10 Week Consultation

It is hoped it'll be discussed in Session 3
The 3rd session lasts approx 18 Months

Approx 12 Months
to sort IT Systems and Regulator - once all is approved

But when does the 12 Months start?



Best Guess?
Earliest is May - Nov 2029
Could it be April 2030?

Opportunities

- Couples choose officiant first
- Venue dependent on officiants
- Venue - Officiant - Planner
- Existing Celebrants advantage
- Ceremony options
- Flexibility

Action

- Respond to the Consultation
- Book meeting with MP
 - Focus on 4 core reasons from Give Couples Choice Movement
- Review your USP / Brand
- Venue relationships
- Celebrant network

Connecting Celebrants Conference

Topic

Resomation (water cremation)

Speaker

Helen Chandler - Kindly Earth

Date

Tuesday 22nd September 2026

7.00 p.m

