

celebrate with a

# NAMING CEREMONY

it's a new choice for a new generation . . .

Naming  
Ceremonies  
throughout the  
UK



*Civil Ceremonies Ltd*  
*worth remembering*



# What exactly is a Naming Ceremony?

...and why have one?

A Naming Ceremony is a very special way of celebrating the birth of your child. It's a unique and meaningful event that's designed to welcome your child into the family and to celebrate his or her place in the wider community.

What makes a Naming Ceremony so unique is that it's created by you. It's a very personal and special event constructed to reflect your own personal values. It's an opportunity to declare, in front of your family and friends, your promise to be the very best parent you can be.

A Naming Ceremony is also a time for creating a circle of support for your child's future development. Family and friends confirm their special relationship with your child by pledging their love and commitment. Above all, a Naming Ceremony is a truly wonderful family

celebration that you will all remember joyously for many years to come.

A Naming Ceremony isn't just for celebrating the birth of a child. It's also a lovely way to welcome an adopted child, or young step-children, into the family.

And it's not just for babies; the child can be any age. Involving older siblings in a ceremony for a new baby is a great way to strengthen bonds, and to consolidate their own place in the family.

*“The ceremony was wonderful  
- all about us and our baby as a  
family unit”* Victoria Hagues, N. Ireland

We conduct  
thousands  
of beautiful  
ceremonies for  
families every  
year

*“Everyone (without exception)  
commented on the ceremony and  
how beautifully it was presented.  
The Celebrant did a fantastic  
job.”* Jo Musto, Wiltshire

### Who conducts a Naming Ceremony?

Most people elect to have their ceremony conducted by a professional Celebrant. However, you can choose to have it led by someone you know instead. We offer a script-only service for people who wish to do this.

All our Celebrants are specially trained professionals. A Celebrant will arrange to meet you beforehand to discuss your ceremony and will deliver it according to the choices you make. Your Celebrant's primary goal is to ensure that your ceremony runs smoothly and that you have a truly memorable day.



## What happens at the ceremony?

It's your ceremony and you choose what goes into it. However, the structure of your ceremony will include:

### Welcome

The Celebrant makes an introduction and welcomes your guests.

### Reading(s)

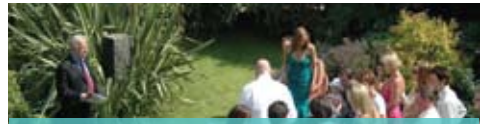
Appropriate poems or readings, the first being near the start of the ceremony, set the scene for the ceremony and can be read by the Celebrant or a guest. You can select further readings for later in the ceremony as well.

### Naming of the Child or Children

The Celebrant asks you to confirm the full name you've given to your child and, if you wish, to offer the reasons for your choices.

### Parents' Promises

This is the part of the ceremony where you promise, in words of your choosing, to be as good a parent as you can be. You can also take the opportunity to make promises of commitment to your partner.



*"A very efficient and comprehensive service. Our guests loved the personal nature of the ceremony"*

Joanne Aherne, Bradford

### Supporting Adults' & Grandparents'

#### Promises

Choose as many friends or relatives to be your child's Supporting Adults as you feel appropriate. During the ceremony they will make declarations of love and ongoing support to your child. Grandparents can also be involved by pledging their support.

### Closing Words

After a further reading, and the presentation of any gifts, the Celebrant closes the ceremony with phrases of your choosing. You are then presented with a special commemorative certificate, which is signed by the Celebrant and those who have taken part in the ceremony.

We make it  
easy for you  
to enjoy your  
child's special  
day

## The Classic Naming Ceremony

Whichever ceremony package you decide upon, your ceremony will be unique because it will contain your choices.

The Classic Ceremony encompasses the six essential sections that are detailed on the previous page. When you book your ceremony you'll be sent a comprehensive information pack that includes a ceremony guide. The guide leads you through the ceremony structure and offers you a series of choices:

- Choose your opening reading from a selection of popular and appropriate poems.
- Select any number of Parents' Promises and, if you wish, a vow to make to each other.
- Select any number of Supporting Adults' Promises from the choices given and, if you wish, add Grandparents' Promises.
- Consider presenting a gift to your child or making a special dedication to any absent guests.

- Choose a second reading, either from a selection provided in the booklet or one of your own choosing.
- Select the Closing Words from a choice of phrases provided.

The Classic option is a straightforward and well structured ceremony. It provides a wonderful centrepiece to a wider family event. The ceremony guide provides you with selections of key phrases from which you make appropriate choices to create your completed ceremony script. A script-only service is available if you don't require a professional Celebrant.



*"The ceremony itself was exceptional; everyone that was special to us was able to meet and welcome our very special baby girl and the ceremony seemed to cement the bond for us and make us even more complete."* David & Nicola Jaques, Hampshire



### The Bespoke Naming Ceremony

The Bespoke Ceremony is altogether more wide-ranging and contains extensive wording choices. It can be as elaborate as you want and it can be themed, containing anything you choose. It's designed for and by you from the ground up; the script is tailor-made especially for you.

Although the essential structure is provided, there are many more facets to it and you aren't limited to specific selections. You are offered ideas that give you infinite opportunities for your ceremony.

For example, in addition to your Parents' Promises you can also include a Parents' Address, where you can express your own thoughts and feelings, and your own memories and hopes for the future.

When you order a Bespoke Ceremony we will send you a comprehensive pack that includes three superb booklets:

- Planning the Perfect Ceremony – a guide packed full of ideas for the ceremony itself and the whole day with inspiration to help you develop the event.
- Your Bespoke Naming Ceremony Guide – a comprehensive guide with a huge array of wording ideas that can be fully personalised.
- A Collection of Poetry and Readings – a booklet with more than a hundred contemporary and classic works to inspire you.

Speak to one of our specialist team to discuss which ceremony is right for you



A dedicated Ceremony Team works with you to create your bespoke script. There are countless options for developing it, and you can imagine how much work goes into it – which is why you need to allow a **minimum of six weeks** for the creation of your ceremony after placing your order.

The Bespoke Ceremony is altogether more involving and interactive. It provides limitless possibilities for creating a truly outstanding event that your friends and family will remember for many years to come.

### The Birthday Naming Ceremony

All your child's early birthdays are significant, but their first few birthdays are extra special. What a terrific occasion for a Naming Ceremony!

It's a great opportunity to gather your family and friends for a unique and highly personal celebration.

Our Birthday Ceremony is a variation of the Bespoke Ceremony. It features special wording and includes many suggestions to help the ceremony reflect the occasion.



### Where can the ceremony be held?

You can hold your ceremony at any suitable venue. The venue does not have to be licensed in any way, nor does it have to be local to you. Perhaps you have a hotel in mind, or maybe a favourite restaurant or a village hall. Of course, you might prefer to hold the ceremony at home, or at a friend's or relative's house (subject to suitability). Ceremonies can be held outside but there will need to be an inside room available in case of bad weather.



### Making your day extra special

To help make your ceremony extra special we've put together a range of high quality gifts, stationery and accessories. Full details are provided in the online shop on our website.



Visit our website to view our full range of products!

# Your questions answered . . .

## How much does a ceremony cost?

(All prices quoted include VAT and are correct at time of print)

A Classic Ceremony costs just £185. If you prefer not to have a professional Celebrant involved in the delivery of the ceremony, the script-only option costs £75.

A Bespoke Ceremony costs just £295. This includes the fully tailor-made script. The script-only option is £150. These prices also apply to the Birthday ceremony.

Please note that if you wish to have your ceremony at home the Celebrant is required to first carry out a Health & Safety assessment, for which we have to charge a fee of £30.



## What does the cost of a ceremony provide?

- The services of a Celebrant (if chosen) both before and during the ceremony.
- Creation of a unique ceremony script (a full tailor-made script for a Bespoke Ceremony).
- Exclusive ceremony and event planning guides if choosing a Bespoke Ceremony.
- The expertise of our Ceremony Team who will guide and advise you.
- A commemorative certificate of the ceremony.

A *day* of priceless *memories*



### *How long does the ceremony last?*

This depends on how much you choose to include. A Classic Ceremony generally lasts between fifteen and thirty minutes. Since a Bespoke Ceremony usually involves more elements it usually lasts between twenty and forty-five minutes. Do remember that the ceremony itself is part of a potentially much bigger family event. There are countless additional activities you can arrange to add to the overall success of the whole day.

### *Can it contain religion?*

If there are religious readings or references that have special meaning for you, you are welcome to include them at any point in a Bespoke Ceremony. For a Classic Ceremony the optional second reading offers you an opportunity to include any religious or spiritual content.

### *Does the ceremony carry any legal status?*

As with a Christening, a Naming Ceremony doesn't have any legal status and any certificates provided are for your personal use only.



You can name more than one of your children for no extra cost!

### *Can I include other children in the ceremony?*

Feel free to include your other children - your ceremony can be for one or all of your children at no additional cost.

### *Who can arrange a ceremony?*

A ceremony can be arranged by the child's parents (either alone or jointly), or by a legal guardian. There is no requirement for the parents to be married.

### *Can we organise a ceremony at short notice?*

You need to allow six weeks to create a Bespoke Ceremony, but a Classic Ceremony can be arranged at short notice. It is always best to plan your ceremony as far in advance as possible.

If the answer you're looking for isn't here please check our website, email us with your enquiry or simply give us a call – we're always happy to help.



