

Download the full guidelines document, via the link provided below:

<https://nswact.uca.org.au/media/3449/policy-procedures-20160506-guidelines-for-proposing-lay-marriage-celebrants-final.pdf>

Notes for Lay Wedding Celebrants in the Uniting Church in Australia
(from pages 2-3 of the abovementioned document)

Lay Celebrants can only be recognised if the following is upheld (and reviewed annually by Presbytery PRC):

1. There is a clear need for the UCA to authorise someone to celebrate marriages in the local congregation or setting;
2. There is no ordained Minister readily available to provide this ministry in that community or there is a special case to justify the nomination of an additional person;
3. The person proposed is a member in good standing in the UCA;
4. The person proposed offers respected Christian leadership in that congregation and community which is acceptable to the congregation and the presbytery; and
5. The person has satisfactorily completed the Synod of NSWACT training for Lay Marriage Celebrants which includes consideration of marriage preparation, legal requirements and the meaning and conduct of the liturgy

Lay Celebrants cannot run their own weddings or run a wedding business, they are acting as a Uniting Church religious practitioner and licensed only to use the Uniting Church Rites legally (i.e. Uniting in Worship II).

If a Marriage Celebrant (Lay or ordained) is asked to conduct a marriage service elsewhere, s/he will:

1. refer the couple to the local Minister or Lay Celebrant;
2. obtain permission from their home congregation/church Council and Presbytery before agreeing to conduct a wedding in another place;
3. only agree to conduct the wedding if invited to do so by the local Minister or Lay Celebrant.

It is unethical to agree to conduct a marriage without an explicit invitation from those in ministry in that place.