**MARRIAGE/ CIVIL PARTNERSHIP CEREMONY RESTRICTIONS**

Please be aware that your marriage/civil partnership ceremony must be conducted under the current NI Executive restrictions.

* Numbers at marriage and civil partnership ceremonies will be determined by a risk assessment carried out by the venue.
* Face masks must be worn by all except the couple being married or forming a civil partnership and the registrar/officiant performing the ceremony.  Current guidance states that children under the age of 12 do not have to wear a face mask.
* Up to 6 people from two households (not including children) are permitted in a private dwelling therefore a marriage or civil partnership ceremony can take place if all other guests at the ceremony are from one household with the registrar/officiant being from the second household
* Can take place in a person’s home if one of the parties is terminally ill with up to **10** people in attendance (this includes the couple, two witnesses and the officiant).
* Outdoor gatherings in a private garden will be restricted to **15** people (including children) from 3 different households. If all other participants at the ceremony are from two households the ceremony can proceed with the registrar/officiant being the person from the third household.
* A religious/belief officiant can carry out a marriage ceremony at any location in Northern Ireland, it does not have to be an approved venue.  It is the responsibility of the religious/belief officiant to ensure that COVID-19 restrictions are adhered to.