**MARRIAGE/ CIVIL PARTNERSHIP CEREMONY RESTRICTIONS from the**

**22nd September 2020**

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

**Marriages and Civil Partnerships**

* No mixing of households is permitted at a **private dwelling** therefore it will not be possible for a ceremony to be held indoors as the registrar would not be permitted to enter the premises.
* Outdoor gatherings at a **private dwelling** (including the garden of the dwelling) is restricted to six people from two different households. Children aged 12 and under from those two households are discounted from this total. If all other participants at the ceremony are not from the same household the ceremony cannot proceed as the registrar can be the only person from a separate household.
* Can take place in a person’s home if one of the parties is terminally ill with six people in attendance (this includes the couple, two witnesses and the officiant).
* Indoor gatherings in a **non-private location** e.g. hotel, religious location, registration office can proceed. The number attending must be discussed and agreed with the venue who will determine attendance based on the size of the venue and the ability to socially distance.
* Outdoor gatherings in **non-private dwelling locations** can proceed. The NI Executive have stated that certain events can have more than 15 people attending including marriage and civil partnership ceremonies as long as a risk assessment is carried out. The number attending must be discussed and agreed with the venue who will determine attendance based on the size of the venue and the ability to socially distance.