



How to apply for a copy of a Marriage Record in the Anglican Diocese of Sydney

Marriage records are personal records. This is a service for only those persons who want to get a copy of their own marriage record.

Anglican marriages are recorded in registers created in each church or parish. There is no database of marriages. To find the record, the Archivist searches the relevant registers from the specified church.

Step 1: Check your details

In order to undertake a search for your marriage record, we need to know two crucial pieces of information:

- i. The name of the church and parish in which you were married.
- ii. The exact date of your marriage, or your best estimate.

Step 2: Contact the Sydney Anglican Diocesan Archivist

Not all parishes have deposited their registers with the Diocesan Archives. You need to contact the Diocesan Archivist to find out where the registers are held.

T: +61 (02) 9265 1620

E: archives@sydney.anglican.asn.au

If the registers are held in the Archives, you can proceed to Step 3 and apply for a copy from the Archives.

If the registers are still held by the parish, you will need to contact them directly. The Archivist can provide you with contact details.

Step 3: Send your Application Form and pay the service fee

Marriage records are confidential documents. To ensure only authorised people access marriage records, you will need to fill in an application form.

The application form and payment instructions will be provided by the Diocesan Archivist once the location of the register is confirmed.

The fee for this service is AUD \$30 (thirty dollars Australian).



Privacy

This is not a family history service. Marriage records are closed for 70 years from the date of the entry, so copies cannot be provided to third parties for reasons such as 50th wedding anniversary celebrations.

Format of the copy of your Marriage Record

The marriage record is a true copy of the details recorded in the register, typed into a letter on diocesan letterhead. It will be sent to you by post and by email. We are unable to provide a photocopy of the register.

Possible problems

Sometimes a marriage record cannot be found in the register of the relevant church, even though the family members are quite certain of the details they have supplied. Reasons for this discrepancy can include:

- The marriage took place at a different church within the parish, or another parish entirely
- The marriage took place at a later date
- The paperwork which documented the marriage was somehow lost before being documented in the marriage register

If the record of marriage is not in the expected register, there is nothing further the Diocesan Archives can do to assist, other than suggest other churches or time periods.

Sometimes a register gets lost, mislaid, or destroyed. Occasionally parish newsletters may include information about marriages, but this is only likely to include the name of the individuals and no further information.

If there are any difficulties with the search, such as a nil result for the church you have nominated, we will contact you so we can discuss other options.