**Convert your same sex civil partnership to marriage**

You are now able to convert your same sex civil partnership to marriage, but only if you registered it in England and Wales, or overseas in a consulate or armed forces base (where the civil partnership was registered according to the laws of England and Wales).

**How do I convert my civil partnership to marriage?**There are two ways to convert a civil partnership into a marriage:

a) a simple administrative process called a 'standard conversion'
b) a two stage process where the conversion is followed by a ceremony

**The standard conversion**

This is a simple administrative process where you will both attend an appointment at any register office and complete a declaration with details about you and your civil partnership. The documents that you will need to produce include:

* evidence of your name and date of birth - current passports or birth certificates
* evidence of your address - recent Council Tax or utilities bill
* an original civil partnership certificate

A legal declaration will then be drawn up for you to both sign with the Superintendent Registrar. Your marriage is then registered and a marriage certificate will be issued.

**A conversion followed by a ceremony**

There are two stages to this type of conversion.

The first part is where you will both need to attend an appointment at any register office and complete a declaration with details about you and your civil partnership. The documents that you will need to produce include:

* evidence of your name and date of birth - current passports or birth certificates
* evidence of your address - recent Council Tax or utilities bill
* an original civil partnership certificate

The second stage is the signing of the declaration, which can be followed by a ceremony and can take place at venues where same sex couples are able to marry. For example

* register office
* approved premises
* religious buildings that are registered for the marriage of same sex couples

Following the ceremony your marriage is registered, and a marriage certificate can then be issued.

 **Fees and charges**

The fee you will need to pay will depend on whether you choose the standard conversion or the conversion followed by a ceremony.

The full fee for the conversion is £45. But, you won't need to pay if you registered your civil partnership before Saturday 29 March 2014 (before you had the opportunity to marry). This free conversion is available until Wednesday 9 December 2015.

You will need to pay the conversion fee:

* if you registered a civil partnership after Saturday 29 March 2014, or plan to register one in the future and then convert it to a marriage; and
* after Wednesday 9 December 2015 - even if you registered your civil partnership before 29 March 2014.

**Fee for the Standard Conversion**

The fee is £45, but you may not need to pay this – see the information above.

**Fees for the Conversion followed by a ceremony**

There is an additional £27 for stage one of the process

The fees for stage 2, signing of the declaration and a ceremony **Tameside Register office are £45 conversion fee + £50 ceremony fee**:

The Register Office is not open for ceremonies on Sundays or Bank Holidays

The fees for the registrar to attend for the signing of the declaration and a ceremony **at an approved premises** in Tameside is £45 conversion fee + £300 ceremony fee:

You won’t need to pay the £45 conversion fee if you registered your civil partnership before Saturday 29 March 2014 (before you had the opportunity to marry). This fee reduction is available until Wednesday 9 December 2015.

**Certificate Fees**

There is a charge of £4 for each marriage certificate ordered before the conversion or on the day, this is included in the ceremony fee.