



TRUE TO YOU
CELEBRANCY

Is a naming ceremony right for you?

If you are looking for a way to formally welcome your child into the world, but decide that a full religious ceremony or christening is not for you, then you may choose a naming ceremony. Naming ceremonies are a fantastic way to celebrate the arrival of a new baby with friends and family. Naming ceremonies can be held for children of any age, and are becoming popular for welcoming adopted or step-children into the family, as well as for babies. They are also a popular choice where a couple both hold different religious beliefs and wish to blend some elements of both religions into one ceremony.

Common questions:

- Do I have to have a christening or a naming ceremony?
Put simply no. There is no legal requirement to have either. The only legal requirement of you as a parent is to register your baby's birth. This is when the birth certificate is issued.
- So what is a naming ceremony?
It is an opportunity to declare before family and friends, your promises to be as good a parent as you can, and for adult friends or relatives to confirm their special relationship with your child. A Naming Ceremony is a unique occasion for everyone to feel involved as they pledge their love and support for your child's future development.
- Am I allowed to have Godparents?
Yes, since it's a term we all know and understand, you may choose to use the title 'Godparent' for the friends or relatives chosen to be your child's supporting adults. In these circumstances you may use the word 'godparent' whilst acknowledging that the religious aspect of the role isn't relevant.
- Are there any alternatives to 'Godparent'?
Yes. Popular choices are 'guideparent' or 'supporting adult', though you might also want to think about 'mentor', 'sponsor' or 'guardian', for example. Whilst the role of any significant adult, regardless of the title you choose, is an honor and comes with promises and responsibilities to the child, none of these are legally binding roles. The chosen title signifies the special role that those adults will have as your child journeys through life.

- Where can I have my ceremony?
You can hold your ceremony anywhere. Some people chose a function suite or a hotel, others their home, garden or other place identified as special to the family.
- Will I get a certificate?
Yes. True to You Celebrancy includes a Naming Ceremony certificate. This is not a legal document and does not constitute legal proof of identity for your child.

Hints & Tips to get the best from your ceremony

- Send formal invitations to guests. This helps underline how important the day is to you.
- Think about your heritage. What are the core values and beliefs that are important to you? Where do those values and beliefs come from?
- Why did you choose the name you gave your child?
- What are your hopes and aspirations as a parent / parents? What promises or pledges would you like to make to your child? What qualities do you hope to nurture in them?
- What hopes and aspirations do you have for your child as they journey through life?
- Things to consider when choosing the 'guideparents' for your child may include; how often they see your child, do they share similar core values and beliefs as you? Will they have a good and positive influence in your child's life? Do they accept that the role carries special responsibilities?
- Consider other important people in your child's life such as grandparents, aunts and uncles. They provide an important link to their grandchild's heritage and they can be central to the passing on of cultural values to children. You may wish to acknowledge people who are deceased, but whom you still hold dear.
- Consider giving a special gift to your child. It doesn't have to be expensive, but choose something long lasting that your child can keep and treasure in years to come.
- Do you want readings or poetry in the ceremony? Would you like to read this yourself, or would you like other guests to read them? If you are asking a guest to deliver a reading or poem, let them help select it and give them a copy so they can practice. True to You Celebrancy has a selection of readings and poetry available as part of your package to help, though you are free to choose readings / poetry of your own.
- Further information can be found on the True to You website:
www.truetoyoucelebrancy.com . I have also been asked to write a number of guest blogs, including this one for The Celebrant Directory
<https://www.thecelebrantdirectory.com/blog/celebrants-reveal-their-favourite-naming-ceremony-moments/>

Remember, if you choose True to You Celebrancy, then my commitment to you is to provide a ceremony that is unique and 'true to you'.

*"Today you are You, that is truer than true. There is no one alive who is Youer than You." —
Dr. Seuss*



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