



The
United
Reformed
Church

Help and Advice

Northern Synod Office, 4 College Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8JJ (0191-232 1168)

Bulletin 45: SHAM MARRIAGES

The Help & Advice Group was set up by Synod in 2009, to support local churches in being informed and effective in their life and mission. The group was disbanded in 2014, as part of a simplification of Synod committees, and its work continues through the Trust Officer, under the oversight of the Trust. We are willing to try to provide specific advice on particular topics. Please get in touch if you have questions or suggestions.

This article is part of a series giving an overview of particular subjects on interest for local churches. We also circulate general updates from time to time. Bulletins will also be posted on the members' area of the website with direct links to other websites.

Where readers are directed to web-based resources, the Synod Office is willing to respond to reasonable requests for printed out information for readers without web access, although they may find it more satisfactory to follow up their interest through their local library's web access.

Sham Marriages and Civil Partnerships

This update may be of interest to Ministers.

The Immigration Act 2014 changes the provisions applying to marriages or civil partnerships involving a national from outside the European Economic Area who stands to gain an immigration advantage from the union.

From 2 March 2015, intending couples will have to complete a longer notice period of 28 days before they can marry or form a civil partnership. Where one party is a non-EEA national, the Home Office can extend the period to 70 days to give time for it to investigate whether it may be a sham.

Home Office guidance summarising the changes can be found at: www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/377482/Marriage_notice.pdf

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