

**Consent Required by the Marriage Act 1949 and the Civil Partnership Act 2004  
to the Marriage/Civil Partnership of a Minor**

District: **West Sussex**

The form, when completed, should be handed in at the notice appointment.

**Persons proposing to marry/civil partnership**

Name .....

Address .....

Name .....

Address .....

**Please read the notes overleaf before completing this form**

**Consent of Father or Adoptive Father**

I, ..... being the father of the  
*(insert name in full)*  
above named ..... who is ..... years of age

and being a person whose consent to h..... marriage/civil partnership is required by law, do hereby give my consent to h..... marriage/civil partnership to the other person named above.

Signed ..... Date .....

Address .....

In the presence of ..... (Signature of Witness)

Address of Witness .....

**Consent of Mother or Adoptive Mother**

I, ..... being the father of the  
*(insert name in full)*  
above named ..... who is ..... years of age

and being a person whose consent to h..... marriage/civil partnership is required by law, do hereby give my consent to h..... marriage/civil partnership to the other person named above.

Signed ..... Date .....

Address .....

In the presence of ..... (Signature of Witness)

Address of Witness .....

**Consent of Any Other Person Required by Law**

I, ..... by virtue of a ..... Order,  
*(insert name in full)* *(insert 'Custody', 'Residence', 'Care', 'Guardianship')*

am a person whose consent to the marriage/civil partnership of .....  
is required by law, do hereby give my consent to h..... marriage/civil partnership to the other person named  
above.

Signed ..... Date .....

Address .....

In the presence of ..... (Signature of Witness)

Address of Witness .....

## Parental responsibility

“Parental responsibility” is defined as ‘all the rights, duties, powers, responsibilities and authority which by law a parent has in relation to a child and his property”

Where the child’s father and mother were married to each other at the time of the birth, they both have parental responsibility for the child. The consent of both parents will be required unless the Court has granted a custody order in proceedings instigated (prior to 14 October 1991), made a residence order (after 14 October 1991) or in circumstances where the child is or has been subject to a care order.

A person whose father and mother were married to each other at the time of his birth includes:

- a. a person who is treated as legitimate by virtue of section 1 of the Legitimacy Act 1976;
- b. a person who is a legitimated person within the meaning of section 10 of the Legitimacy Act 1976, or
- c. a person who is an adopted child within the meaning of Part IV of the Adoption act 1976; or
- d. a person who is otherwise treated in law as legitimate.

Where the child’s father and mother were not married to each other the mother only has parental responsibility (subject to any care or residence orders in force). The father may, however, also (in addition to the mother) acquire parental responsibility in the following ways:

- a. by applying to the court for a parental responsibility order; or
- b. by applying to the court for a residence order (in which case the court will also be required to make a parental responsibility order); or
- c. by making, with the mother, a formal parental responsibility agreement and filling a copy with the Principal Registry of the Family Division of the High Court at Somerset House; or
- d. where his particulars are recorded in an entry of birth registered or re-registered after 1 December 2003 on the joint information of both parents, and on the information of one with a statutory declaration acknowledging paternity from the other parent.

A person who has acquired parental responsibility shall cease to have that responsibility only if the court so orders.

## Orders may by the court

Any order made by the court about parental consent should be referred to the General Register Office (Marriages and Civil Partnerships) for advice.