

INTRODUCTION TO WEDDINGS AND MARRIAGE

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The purpose of the rabbi at a wedding is to ensure that the extremely detailed wedding halachot, as set out by the Shulchan Aruch, are followed correctly. If not, the wedding might not be kosher.

A Jewish marriage includes: a written document (ketuba); a financial transaction (ring) in front of two kosher witnesses; and physical intimacy.

Witnesses

- The witnesses must be shomer Shabbat Jewish men.
- The bride and groom should confirm verbally that these are the two (and the only two) witnesses that they want.

Ring

- The groom must confirm that he acquired and owns the ring.
- The groom must say Harei at mekudeshet li ... to the bride and place the ring on her (index) finger.

Ketuba

- The ketuba must be kosher.
- Before the chuppa, someone (anyone, including women) must fill in (no safrut is required for this): the Hebrew names of the bride and groom; the date the wedding is taking place; the wedding location (city, etc.); and that a kinyan was made.
- The ketuba must be signed by two kosher witnesses.