

COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND)
Weddings and Funerals

From Monday 19th October 2020, initially for a period of four weeks, all weddings in Northern Ireland are restricted to a gathering of 25 people and from Friday 16th October 2020, all funerals are also restricted to a gathering of 25 people.

Please note that legislation in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland varies regarding the understanding and interpretation of a gathering of 25 people at a wedding or funeral. The nidirect official Government services website states that at a wedding the gathering of 25 people ‘includes children under 12 and the celebrant’. The Chief Medical Officer, Dr Michael McBride, has also advised as matter of urgency that clergy should be aware that ‘the maximum number of people permitted at a funeral service in a place of worship or funeral home is now limited to 25. This includes clergy or officiants. This limit also applies to committals at a graveside or at the City of Belfast Crematorium. Funeral services are not permitted in private homes during these restrictions.’

The new restrictions therefore permit a maximum of 25 people present at either a wedding or a funeral and this figure is inclusive of clergy, organists or anyone else who may in normal circumstances be present or involved in either types of service.

+John Armagh: