

What happens at a Citizenship Ceremony?

Citizenship ceremonies start with a welcome speech by the Superintendent Registrar. The ceremony also typically includes speeches by other local dignitaries on what it means to become a British citizen. This is followed by the citizenship oath and pledge, which is a legal requirement and is the point at which citizenship is conferred. New citizens are then called upon individually to receive their certificate, information pack and commemorative gifts.

The certificate is presented by a local dignitary on behalf of the Home Secretary and this certificate can subsequently be used in support of passport applications and to prove the individual is a British citizen. The ceremony closes with a speech and the playing of the national anthem. Afterwards there may be an informal celebration where new citizens have the opportunity to have their photographs taken with their guests and the dignitaries in attendance.

Are family applications accepted?

Wherever possible the Home Office processes applications from members of the same family together so that they can attend a ceremony at the same time.

Is it possible to invite guests?

You are more than welcome to bring guests along to your citizenship ceremony. Unfortunately, due to accommodation restrictions on the venues used for citizenship ceremonies it may be necessary to restrict the number of guests that each person can invite. Registration Services will inform you of the number of guests that you can bring along with you and will issue you with the corresponding number of invitations. Attendance at a citizenship ceremony will be by invitation only.

Does the ceremony have to be public?

Citizenship ceremonies are normally conducted in a group setting to reinforce the community nature of citizenship. You may however wish to celebrate in a more personal way for example by holding a separate party or having a separate public ceremony at another location within the county.

Please speak to Registration Services to discuss your options and for help in selecting suitable locations.

For enquiries or to make an appointment please contact

General enquiries about Registration Services can be made during the following times:

Monday – Friday 08:00 – 18:00

Saturday – 09:00 – 13:00

Please contact:

Email: registrarsenquiries@staffordshire.gov.uk

Tel: 0300 1118001

Fax: 01785 276026

Deaf or hard of hearing:

Mini Com: 01785 276207

The Minicom service is a telephone typewriter device for communication between deaf, hard of hearing, speech-impaired and/or hearing persons.

All of our information leaflets are available in a range of formats and languages, including Braille and large print. If this would be useful to you or someone you know, please contact us.