Internal Affairs
Te Tari Taiwhenua

Application to lodge a caveat and notice of objection against the issue of a marriage or civil union licence, or a Registrar performing a ceremony

Email to:
MarriageLicence@dia.govt.nz

Or lodge in person:
At our Auckland, Manukau, Wellington or Christchurch counter locations. For locations visit *www.govt.nz/bdm*

Any person who has lodged a caveat shall, if the court considers the grounds on which the caveat was lodged to be vexatious and unreasonable, be liable for damages.

Any person may lodge a caveat or notice of objection to a marriage or civil union against any person named in the caveat, on the grounds that the marriage or civil union is one in respect of which a licence should not be issued.

Fee:
- A caveat costs $58.
- Once the caveat is received by email, the BDM team will be in contact by phone to take payment by credit/debit card.
- Alternatively, you can lodge the caveat at one of the 4 DIA offices and pay the fee over the counter.

Expiration:
A caveat expires 1 year after the caveat is submitted and the fee is paid, unless earlier withdrawn by the caveator or discharged by a Judge.

Procedure if person applies for a licence:
If the person/s named in the caveat apply for a licence to get married or enter into a civil union, the Registrar will send the caveat to the Family Court. A Judge will decide if the caveat is valid or not. If the Judge considers the reasons given in caveat are not sufficient to stop a licence being issue, the court will discharge (cancel) the caveat and a licence will be issued. If the Judge considers the reasons given are valid, a licence will not be issued and the caveat will remain in force until it expires.

Contact Births, Deaths and Marriages on **0800 22 52 52** (New Zealand only)
or email **MarriageLicence@dia.govt.nz**

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SECTION 1: Person who is lodging the caveat (the "caveator")

First name(s)

Surname

First name(s) at birth (if different from above)

Surname at birth (if different from above)

Address
Flat/street number and name

Suburb

Town/city

Postcode

Country

Phone number

Email address

SECTION 2: Person/s the caveat is lodged against

First name(s)

Surname

First name(s)

Surname

SECTION 3: Signature of caveator

Signature

Date signed (DD/MM/YYYY)

If you are signing on behalf of the caveator, state your full name

SECTION 4: Reasons why a marriage or civil union licence should not be issued