

News Release

Friday 17th October 2008 - For Immediate Release

New book published to raise awareness of Naming Ceremonies

Civil Ceremonies Ltd has published a book to raise awareness of Naming Ceremonies in this, the 10th anniversary year of the Government White Paper “Supporting Families” in which the concept of Naming Ceremonies was first proposed.

In the White Paper the Government made clear its commitment to “explore ways of publicising further the benefits of such ceremonies and the role they can play in strengthening the role of the extended family.”

The book, the only one of its kind to be published in the UK, is titled ‘Your Complete Guide to Naming Ceremonies’. It was launched at The Baby Show at Earl’s Court on the 17th of October 2008.

In writing the foreword for the book the renowned writer and broadcaster, Bel Mooney, said, “About one third of UK families fail to celebrate their new babies in any formal way. In my opinion, they are missing out. This book will guide all parents (and step-parents, and others) in search of suitable words and rituals to welcome their new baby into our human family.”

Civil Ceremonies Ltd incorporates the Baby Naming Society, which was created in 1994 by the late Lord Young of Dartington to promote baby welcoming ceremonies and joint parental responsibility.

- More follows -

A Naming Ceremony embraces the core principles of strong family values. It promotes the special relationship between parent and child, and with the Supporting Adults who will have a positive influence on the child's upbringing and future development.

A pilot-scheme for Registrars to offer the new Naming Ceremonies to families was launched in 1999. The scheme was set up by Anne Barber, who later founded Civil Ceremonies Ltd, and was developed in partnership with the Baby Naming Society. Families welcomed this new choice and the pilot-scheme proved successful. The scheme was subsequently rolled out nationally.

Anne Barber says of the book, "This is an important step forward in supporting Lord Young's vision of promoting Naming Ceremonies as a real choice for families."

The formation of Civil Ceremonies Ltd in 2002 by Anne Barber, who is the company's Managing Director, created a company whose aim was to develop Naming Ceremonies to a professional level and promote their accessibility to families throughout the UK. Civil Ceremonies Ltd is the only national provider of Naming Ceremonies and has several hundred professionally trained Celebrants.

Although many thousands of families have since benefited from the advent of Naming Ceremonies, awareness of this important family choice is still limited. This new book has been written to raise the profile of Naming Ceremonies so that more families are aware its important role in celebrating the birth of their child and in welcoming their child into the family. The book is available from most good bookstores and direct from www.civilceremonies.co.uk.

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