# Introduction to Weddings and Marriage

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.

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