



Essex County Council

**Essex Registration Service**

Stanwell House  
Stanwell Street  
Colchester  
Essex CO2 7DL

**Telephone:** 0845 6037632

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**Email:** [Colchester.ro@essex.gov.uk](mailto:Colchester.ro@essex.gov.uk)

**www.essex.gov.uk**

22<sup>nd</sup> April 2014

**NEW SAME SEX MARRIAGES**

To all Approved Churches,

I am writing to advise you that with **immediate** effect your church must be licenced by the General Register Office to conduct **SAME** sex marriages.

The General Register Office contact details are as follows:

General Register Office  
Smedley Hydro  
Trafalgar Road  
Birkdale  
Southport  
PR8 2HH

Telephone: 0300 123 1837

Regards  
Colchester Register Office

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29th April 2014

**APOLOGY**

To all Approved Churches,

Further to our letter of the 22<sup>nd</sup> April, we write to apologise for the misleading information given regarding registering a building certified as a Place of Religious Worship for same sex marriages.

The letter should have advised that *should you wish* to conduct marriages for same sex couples in your church/chapel/Hall, you need to apply to the General Register Office to register the building for this purpose (with the consent of your denomination's relevant governing authority).

More information on the process and an application form for the purpose of applying are available upon request from any of our registration offices within the county.

Please accept our sincere apologies for any anxieties or distress that may have been caused by our previous letter.

Regards  
Colchester Register Office