

## Couples fuse surnames in new trend: 'I now pronounce you Mr and Mrs Puffin'

Hundreds of British married couples every year are now blending their surnames in a new trend that has seen Mr Pugh and Miss Griffin become Mr and Mrs Puffin, the latest Deed Poll figures, shown exclusively to The Telegraph, reveal.



Increasing numbers of married couples are fusing their surnames. Photo: ALAMY

By Emma Barnett

The practice, which originally became popular in the US with American newlyweds, six years ago, is known as 'meshing' and has become incredibly popular with young newlyweds.

Eight hundred British couples have already meshed their surnames this year and the soaring popularity of the practice has meant that the UK Deed Poll Service, the UK's largest issuers of Deed Polls (approximately 50,000 a year) have had to create a separate system to cope with demand and track the fast-growing trend.

"Meshing has changed from once being a rare novelty to now being noted as being one of the main reasons couples may use a Deed Poll to change their names," said Claudia Duncan, an officer at the UK Deed Poll Service.

"Four years ago there were only a handful of couples choosing to mesh so the growth is huge. Primarily meshing seems to be adopted by younger couples in their twenties or early thirties as opposed to older couples. Meshing has allowed couples the freedom of reinvention - meshing their names as a symbolic reflection of their union with a completely new start without any history being tied to their surname.