

Civil Marriage Ceremony

Option #2

Introductions

THE PURPOSE

On behalf of _____ and _____ welcome and thank you for being here on this special day. By your presence, you celebrate with them the love they have discovered in each other and you support their decision to commit themselves to one another for the rest of their lives. This afternoon/evening we are here to celebrate love. We come together to witness and proclaim the joining together of these two persons in marriage.

This is an important and joyous occasion for _____ and _____ who will today make a commitment to each other, before witnesses, to pledge themselves, by mutual consent, to a union in friendship and life which is one of the most sacred of all human ties.

Marriage is not to be entered upon thoughtlessly or irresponsibly but with a due and serious understanding and appreciation of the ends for which it is contracted. Therefore, if there is anyone present who can show just cause why these two persons may not be lawfully joined together in matrimony, they should now declare it or hereafter remain silent.

_____ and _____ you have made it known that you want to be joined in marriage and no one has shown any valid reason why you may not. If either of you know of any lawful impediment why you should not be married, you are now to declare it.

Officiant to 1st person: Repeat after me please:

“I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, _____, may not be joined in matrimony to _____”.

Officiant to 2nd person: Repeat after me please:

“I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, _____, may not be joined in matrimony to _____”.

If either person is escorted forward, Officiant states:

“Who is it that gives this _____ (man/woman/these individuals) in marriage?”

Answer “I/we do”. (father, mother, children, relatives, etc.)

DECLARATION OF INTENT AND VOWS

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“Would you please face each other, join hands and repeat after me.”

Officiant to the 1st person:

“I call upon these persons here present to witness that I, _____ do take you, _____, to be my lawful wedded (wife/husband/spouse/partner). To laugh with you in joy; to grieve with you in sorrow; to grow with you in love; to be faithful to you alone; as long as we both shall live.”

Officiant to the 2nd person:

“I call upon these persons here present to witness that I, _____ do take you, _____, to be my lawful wedded (wife/husband/spouse/partner). To laugh with you in joy; to grieve with you in sorrow; to grow with you in love; to be faithful to you alone; as long as we both shall live.”

EXCHANGE OF RINGS

“This ring is a symbol of your marriage and a symbol of your love and life together.”

Officiant to the 1st person:

Please place this ring on the third finger of _____’s left hand saying after me:

“This ring is my precious gift to you as a measure of my love and as a sign that from this day forward your every breath shall be surrounded by my love.”

This ring is a symbol of your marriage and a symbol of your love and life together.

Officiant to the 2nd person:

Please place this ring on the third finger of _____’s left hand saying after me:

“This ring is my precious gift to you as a measure of my love and as a sign that from this day forward your every breath shall be surrounded by my love.”

As you wear these rings may you find them reminders of an endless love which may grow more meaningful with each passing day.

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PRONOUNCEMENT

_____ and _____ have pledged themselves to each other and have declared this symbolically by their vows and the exchange of rings. I, _____, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the *Marriage Act*, do hereby pronounce you _____ and _____ to be (husband and wife/partners in life/married).

You may exchange a kiss as a token of your joy.

SIGNING OF THE REGISTER

At this time, the wedded parties and their witnesses will sign the Official Marriage Register.

SERVICE CONCLUSION

As you enter upon your marriage, consider that the honour of the nation and its people based upon the quality of its homes, and the future of the nation is in the hands of the issue of each home.

Let your home be as a heaven of peace in the middle of a busy and businesslike world; let your relationship be one of complete truth and understanding between you both; respect the confidences of your partner in this marriage, and consider that as the world gives nothing freely, neither will your marriage yield you more than you give into it.

May you enjoy length of days, fulfillment of hopes and peace and contentment of mind as you day by day live and fulfill the terms of this covenant you have made with one another.

Officiant: May I introduce to you the married couple.