

# CIVIL WEDDING CEREMONY

## WELCOME:

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ want to welcome you to this celebration of their love for one another. Each of you has given something special to their lives. Your love and encouragement will forever be appreciated. Thank you for sharing one of life's happiest moments with them. May you be as important a part of their tomorrow as you are of their today.

## PRESENTATION OF THE BRIDE:

Who gives this woman in marriage?

## MARRIAGE MESSAGE:

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the relationship that you have nurtured together stands for love that will blossom and grow with each passing day. Before you knew love, you were friends, and it was from this seed of friendship that is now your destiny. Marriage is the clasping of hands, the blending of hearts, the union of two lives as one. Marriage is caring as much about the welfare and happiness of your marriage partner as your own, it is not total absorption into each other; it is looking outward in the same direction together. Marriage makes burdens lighter because you divide them. It makes joys more intense because you share them. It makes you stronger, so you can be involved with life in ways you dare not risk alone. To make your relationship work will take love. This is the core of your marriage and why you are here today. It will take trust, to know in your hearts that you truly want the best for each other. It will take dedication, to stay open and honest with one another - and to learn and grow together. It will take faith, to go forward together without knowing exactly what the future brings. And it will take commitment, to hold true to the journey you both promised today to share together. An intimate and secure relationship is not based on solely on promises, but also on trust, respect, faithfulness and the ability to forgive. A lasting marriage is based on all of these, bound together by love.

## Marriage Means Being In Love for the Rest of Your Life

Marriage is love walking hand in hand together. It's laughing with each other about silly little things, and learning to discuss big things with care and tenderness. In marriage, love is trusting each other when you're apart. It's getting over disappointments and hurts, knowing that these are present in all relationships. It's the realization that there is no one else in this world that you'd rather be with than the one you're married to. It's thinking of new things to do together; It's growing old together. Marriage is being in love for the rest of your life.

## DECLARATION OF INTENT:

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ may this be the love that you bring into this relationship and may its essence touch all those with whom you come in contact. Just as the waters touch and nourish the many shores of the earth, may your love be a moving sea between the shores of your souls. As you come this day to affirm your love and commitment, may you always remember to value each other as special and unique individuals, and that you respect each other's thoughts, ideas and feelings. May you be able to forgive and to forget when wronged - as from this day forward you will be each other's home, comfort and sanctuary.

\_\_\_\_\_, do you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your wife? Do you promise to love, adore, and encourage her? Share the good times and achievements as well as the hard times and disappointments? Keep her in sickness and in sorrow and to be loyal to her forevermore? [*I do*]

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## EXCHANGE OF VOWS:

The vows that you are about to exchange serve as a verbal representation of the love you have promised to each other. For it is not the words that you speak today which will unite you together as one, but the inner sense of love and commitment that each of you feels within your soul. No other human ties are as tender, no other vows more sacred than those you now assume.

\_\_\_\_\_ please place this ring on \_\_\_\_\_ ring finger and repeat after me: *I give you this ring as I give you myself. It is a circle without end. Such is my love for you.*

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## EXCHANGE OF RINGS:

The ring is a symbol of the unbroken circle of love. Love freely given has no beginning and no end, no giver and no receiver for each is the giver and each is the receiver. The wedding ring is placed on the fourth finger of the left hand because it was traditionally believed that this finger was a direct connection to the heart - the perfect place for a symbol representing eternal love and commitment.

\_\_\_\_\_ please place this ring on \_\_\_\_\_ and ring finger and repeat after me:

*I give you this ring as a sign of my devotion and love and with my heart I promise to you all that I am. With this ring I marry you and join my life to yours.*

\_\_\_\_\_ please place this ring on \_\_\_\_\_ ring finger and repeat after me:

*I give you this ring as a sign of my devotion and love and with my heart I promise to you all that I am. With this ring I marry you and join my life to yours.*

May the sacredness of this moment and the vows and rings you have exchanged ever remain as a priceless memory in the heart of each of you and may you have perfect love and peace together.

#### **UNITY SAND BLENDING CEREMONY: Optional**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ may your love always be as constant as the never-ending waves, flowing endlessly from the depths of the sea. Just as there will never be a morning without the ocean's flow, there will never be a day without your love for each other. You have just sealed your relationship by the giving and receiving of rings. You have committed here today to share the rest of your lives with each other. This beautiful union is symbolized through the combining of these two individual shells of sand. The first shell represents you \_\_\_\_\_, and all that you were, all that you are, and all that you will ever be, and the other represents you \_\_\_\_\_, and all that you were, all that you are and all that you will ever be. Each one holds its own unique beauty, strength, and character. They can stand on their own and be whole, without need of anything else. However when these two are blended together they create an entirely new and extraordinarily more intricate entity. Each grain of sand brings to the mixture a lasting beauty that forever enriches the combination.

Please pour the sand into this common container to symbolize the union of your two lives.

This container of sand now represents your new life together, although you are two separate people your lives are now entwined together. Just as these grains of sand can never be separated and poured again into the individual containers, so will your marriage be a molding of two individual personalities, bonded together forming one heart, one love. The life that each of you experienced now, individually, will hereafter be inseparably united, for the two shall become one.

#### **MARRIAGE BLESSING:**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ if there is anything you remember of this marriage ceremony, may it be the love that brought you here today, it is only love which can make it a glorious union, and by love which your marriage shall endure. Today your separate lives with your individual memories, desires, and hopes merge into one. You are now taking into your care and keeping the happiness of the one person in the entire world whom you love above all others. You are adding to your life not only the affection of each other, but also the companionship and blessing of a deep trust as well. You are agreeing to share strength, responsibilities and to share love. May you be a blessing and comfort to each other, sharers of each other's dreams, consolers of each other's sorrows, helpers to each other in all of life's challenges. May you encourage each other in whatever you set out to achieve. May you trust each other, trust life and be unafraid. May your marriage bring you all the exquisite excitements a marriage should bring, and may life grant you patience, tolerance, and understanding.

#### **PRONOUNCEMENT OF MARRIAGE:**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ you have expressed your love to one another through the commitment and promises you have just made. It is with these in mind that I now pronounce you husband and wife.

**KISS:** \_\_\_\_\_ you may now kiss your bride.

#### **PRESENTATION OF HUSBAND & WIFE:**

It is my pleasure to present to you for the first time, Mr. and Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_.