

Personalising Your Ceremony

You may want to personalise your ceremony and this document provides some guidance on how this can be done.

Declaratory and Contracting Words

These are the words and vows that every couple must say in order for their ceremony to be legally binding. You will need to choose one of the 9 versions shown below. As they form the legal basis of the marriage or partnership ceremony, each version must be used in its entirety in the form shown without alteration. The couple must say the same version.

| | Declaratory Words | | Contracting Words |
|----|--|------------|---|
| 1. | I do solemnly declare that I know not of any lawful impediment why ----- may not be joined in matrimony to ----- | AND | I call upon these persons here present to witness that I, -----, do take thee, ----- to be my lawful wedded wife (or husband) |
| 2. | I do solemnly declare that I know not of any lawful impediment why I, -----, may not be joined in matrimony to ----- | AND | I, ----- take you, ----- to be my wedded wife (or husband) |
| 3. | I do solemnly declare that I know not of any lawful impediment why I, -----, may not be joined in matrimony to ----- | AND | I, ----- take thee, ----- to be my wedded wife (or husband) |
| 4. | I declare that I know of no legal reason why I, -----, may not be joined in marriage to ----- | AND | I call upon these persons here present to witness that I, -----, do take thee, ----- to be my lawful wedded wife (or husband) |
| 5. | I declare that I know of no legal reason why I, -----, may not be joined in marriage to ----- | AND | I, ----- take you, ----- to be my wedded wife (or husband) |
| 6. | I declare that I know of no legal reason why I, -----, may not be joined in marriage to ----- | AND | I, ----- take thee, ----- to be my wedded wife (or husband) |
| 7. | By replying "I am" to the question "Are you -----, free lawfully to marry -----?" | AND | I call upon these persons here present to witness that I, -----, do take thee, ----- to be my lawful wedded wife (or husband) |
| 8. | by replying "I am" to the question: "Are you -----, free lawfully to marry -----?" | AND | I, ----- take you, ----- to be my wedded wife (or husband) |
| 9. | by replying "I am" to the question: "Are you -----, free lawfully to marry -----?" | AND | I, ----- take thee, ----- to be my wedded wife (or husband) |

Vows and Readings

As well as the legal words above, you may wish to personalise your ceremony by including vows and readings and below are some suggestions. However if you would prefer to use your own please discuss this with a member of the Team at least 4 weeks before the event.

The Registrar will be more than happy to read any poems or readings that you choose unless a member of you party wishes to do so.

Suggested Vows

| | |
|----|---|
| 1 | I give you this ring as a token of our future lives together. I promise to be loving, to be faithful and to be loyal to you in living our lives together. This ring is the symbol of unity in which our two lives are now joined in one unbroken circle, in which wherever we go, we will always return to one another. |
| 2 | I promise to care for you with love and friendship. To support and comfort you through the good times and through troubled times, |
| 3 | I promise to care for you with love and with patience. To respect and cherish you and be faithful always. These promises I make to you for the rest of my life. |
| 4 | I promise to give you the best of myself and to ask no more than you can give in return |
| 5 | I promise to accept you the way you are, for the qualities, abilities and outlook on life that you have. I will not try to change or shape you into any different image |
| 6 | I promise to share with you my time and close attention and to bring joy, strength and imagination to our relationship |
| 7 | I promise to keep myself open to you and let you see into my innermost fears, feelings, secrets and dreams. |
| 8 | I promise to love you with all I feel inside, completely and forever. |
| 9 | Let us love and cherish one another. We have given our hearts and let us stand together. We were born to this world and shall always be together in our path through our lives. |
| 10 | I am so entirely yours, that if I might have all the world given to me, i could not be happy but in your love. |

Suggested Readings

Verse 1

With every vow you're making
On this journey that you're taking,
Remember, love has brought you to this day.

In words of warmth & caring,
And in every kiss you're sharing,
Remember, it's your love that lights the way.

So trust the things you're feeling
And the dreams you're both revealing,
And remember, this is where the magic starts.

For when love brings two together,
There's a joy that lasts forever,
In a perfect celebration of the heart.

Anon

Verse 2

Now you feel no rain
For each of you will be shelter for the other
Now you feel no cold
For each of you will be warmth to the other

Now there is no more loneliness
Now you are two persons
But there is only one life before you

Go now to your dwelling
To enter into the days of your life together
And may your days be good and long upon the
earth

Traditional Native American Wedding Blessing

Verse 3

Today is a day
You will always remember
The greatest in anyone's life
You'll start off the day
Just two people in love
And you'll end it as husband & wife.

It's a brand new beginning
The start of a journey
With moments to cherish and treasure
And although there'll be times
When you both disagree
These will surely be outweighed by pleasure

You'll have heard many words
Of advice in the past
When the secrets of marriage were spoken
But you know that the answers
Lie hidden inside
Where the bond of true love lies unbroken

And with luck all your hopes
And your dreams can be real
May success find its way to your hearts
Tomorrow can bring you
The greatest of joys
But today is the day it all starts

Anon

Verse 4

Your marriage is a pledge of love
A promise to be true
Two lives now joined forever more as one
In all you do

A life as yet unknown awaits
The pathway you must find
Together hand in hand step out
Your hearts gladly entwined

Both joy and tears may mark the way
But this bond will surely grow
If you will only seek to keep
The love you both now know

Make the time to listen to the words
Each needs to say
To laugh together every day
Your love will find a way
Anon

Verse 5

Love is giving, not taking
Mending, not breaking
Trusting, believing
Never deceiving
Patiently bearing
And faithfully sharing
Each joy, every sorrow
Today and tomorrow

Love is kind, understanding
But never demanding
Love is constant, prevailing
It's strength never ailing
A promise once spoken
For all time unbroken
Love's time is forever
Anon

Verse 6

Your love is something you have built
From passions, hopes and dreams.
It's safe from any passing moods
Secure from all extremes

It's something real and special
Something solid, something pure.
It's something you can always count on
Ringing sound and sure

It's something grounded in the heart
Emitting confidence
It lives in your emotions
It's something you can sense.

Your love remains a binding force
Resistant to all strife
Amidst the outer pressures
It's your anchor throughout life.
Bruce B Wilmer

Verse 7

Marriage is someone to believe in
And to put their trust in you
Someone who appreciates
The special things you do

Someone to be close to
In your heart and in your mind
Someone who's the love you might have thought
You'd never find

Someone who stands by you
And whose faith can make you strong
Someone you will cherish
Every day, your whole life long.
Emily Matthews

Verse 8

If you can always be as close
And happy as today
Yet be secure enough to grow
And change along the way

If you can keep for you alone
Your love as man and wife
Yet find the time to share your joy
With others in your life

If you two can be as one
And walk through marriage hand in hand
Yet still support the goals and dreams
That each of you has planned

If you dare to always go
Your separate ways together
Then all the wonder of today
Will stay with you forever

Anon