

Wedding ceremony

AB & CD

Officiated by Helen Hutton, Civil Marriage Celebrant

Witnesses:

Please note that this is just a sample ceremony intended to show the usual order of the ceremony and some legal inclusions such as the Monitum and the vows. There can be many changes to this ceremony – additions made and special rituals included to reflect who you are as a couple and what is important to you both. The ceremony script will be developed and perfected in the time leading up to your ceremony. For convenience, I have used initials in place of the names of the parties to the wedding.

WELCOME

Good afternoon, family and friends. My name is Helen Hutton and I am a civil marriage celebrant.

On behalf of {AB} and {CD}, I would like to welcome you all to this beautiful place on this special day to celebrate their wedding ceremony, which I am honoured to solemnise.

Before I start the ceremony I would like to remind you to check that your phones are off or on silent because nothing can be more important than this ceremony.

Before I start the ceremony I would like to say that while {A} and {C} would love you to take as many photos as you would like, they ask that your phones are silent and that you do not use them for anything else apart from taking photos, including uploading photos to social media. They would also prefer that you do not upload photos of the ceremony to social media until they have had the chance to do so. And this may not be for a few days.

So welcome to all of you. Every one of you is important to {A} and {C} and they are so pleased that you are here today to witness their ceremony and share in the celebrations that will follow. Some of you have travelled from the other side of the world to be here, some from interstate, some not so far. Thank you to all of you as your being here will make this day one to remember.

I would like to take a moment to introduce the six people in the wedding party who have been helping {C} and {C} prepare for today. Supporting {A} are XXXX and {C's} support team are XXXX.

Today the official photographers are XXX and XXX. Please give them every opportunity to have the best possible view throughout the ceremony.

So let us begin the wedding ceremony of {AB} and {CD}.

MONITUM & ADDRESS

{A} and {C} I am duly authorised to solemnise marriages according to law in Australia.

Before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of these witnesses, I am obliged to remind you of the solemn and binding nature of the relationship into which you are now about to enter.

Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of a two people to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.

A little bit of the {A} and {C} story so far. {Some details here} They are clearly a couple very much in love and it is their love and commitment that brings them here today to continue their story as a married couple.

GIVING AWAY/PRESENTATION

This can be included if it is relevant to you as a couple.

FIRST READING

Readings can be part of your ceremony but it is your choice. They are a great way to include family members and friends in your ceremony as well as saying something special about your relationship. I can help you with this if you would like to include one here and at other stages of the ceremony.

THE ASKING

{A} and {C}, I will now ask each of you in turn if you are ready to enter into the legal commitment of marriage.

Do you {A} take {C} to be your lawful wedded wife/husband/spouse (here you will say what is relevant and appropriate to your relationship), to love and to hold, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, as long as you both shall live? ?

{A} will say 'I do'.

Do you [C] take {A} to be your lawful wedded wife/husband/spouse (here you will say what is relevant and appropriate to your relationship) to love and to hold, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, as long as you both shall live? ?

{C} will say 'I do'.

VOWS

{A} and {C} , you will now each state your wedding vows to each other, signifying your love and commitment and your promise to give yourselves to each other in marriage.

{A} will you please repeat after me.

{A}

I call upon the persons here present to witness that I, {A} take you {C} to be my lawful wedded husband/wife/spouse.

I love you, and you are my best friend. Today I give myself to you in marriage. I promise to encourage and inspire you, to laugh with you, and to comfort you in times of sorrow and struggle.

{C} will you please repeat after me.

{C}

I call upon the persons here present to witness that I {C} take you {A} Terence Brown to be my lawful wedded husband/wife/spouse.

I love you, and you are my best friend. Today I give myself to you in marriage. I promise to encourage and inspire you, to laugh with you, and to comfort you in times of sorrow and struggle.

SECOND READING

THE RING CEREMONY

Today {A} and Jane have chosen to exchange wedding rings. Rings are outward symbols of enduring love. These rings represent eternity – the eternal life and commitment that your marriage brings to your relationship.

It is thought that the wedding ring is worn on the third finger because there is a vein in this finger that runs directly to the heart, the universally recognised symbol of love.

By wearing these rings, you are saying to the world, but more importantly to each other, that you have entered into this important and binding relationship of marriage.

{A}, please place the ring on {C}'s finger and repeat after me:

{C}, with this ring I marry you. Take it and wear it as a sign of my love and as a symbol of the life we continue to share.

{C}, please place the ring on {A}'s finger and repeat after me:

{A}, with this ring I marry you. Take it and wear it as a sign of my love and as a symbol of the life we continue to share.

{A} and {C}, think of these rings as keys that are symbolic of your love, and your marriage. May they serve as keys, unlocking the secrets of your hearts for each other to know, and bringing you even closer together now and forever.

BLESSING & DECLARATION

{A} and {C} today is the most special day in your lives so far. You started today as two people totally committed to each other and a couple deeply in love. Tonight, when your ceremony is finished and the reception that you have planned for so long is over, your day will end as a married couple.

Today you have made promises to each other in front of your family and your special friends, those people that you wanted to be here to share this moment. You have made this commitment to each other in your vows and the exchange of your rings. From today on you will continue to be great friends, an example to the world of what it means to be a committed couple. You face an exciting future in that wonderful relationship called marriage that we value and respect.

This ceremony is the beginning of the rest of your lives together and all of us here hope that your marriage will be truly blessed and will bring even deeper love, shared experiences and dreams that come true.

{A} and {C} it now gives me great pleasure to pronounce you [here I will say what is appropriate to your marriage – for example; husband and wife, husband and husband, wife and wife, spouses], and my very best wishes for your future together.

THE KISS will take place here and I will again use the words appropriate to your relationship.

SIGNING OF REGISTER

PRESENTATION OF THE MARRIED COUPLE

Friends and family, please be upstanding.

{A} and {C} – it has been an honour and a pleasure to perform your wedding ceremony today. I know that your future together is long and bright.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce you to your family and friends for the very first time as a married couple