

Sample Ceremony - Equality

We are gathered here today to celebrate and participate in X's and Y's wedding ceremony. Matrimony is a state enriched by a long and honourable tradition of devotion. According to the law each participant is equal and supports the common rights of one another to the marriage.

Marriage is not just a ceremony here today. It is a commitment for life. There is a desire for lifelong companionship. Couples support and comfort each other, through the changing experiences of life. May you laugh together in joy, grieve together in sorrow, and grow together in love.

Marriage means caring as much about the welfare and happiness of your marriage partner as about your own well-being. Marriage also means working together to create and sustain a home in which the marriage may flourish. With this understanding X and Y wish to be joined in marriage. Therefore I now call upon you both in the presence of these witnesses, to repeat after me:

X: I declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment (or can say reason) why I, X's full name, may not be joined in matrimony to Y's full name.

Y: I declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment (or can say reason) why I, Y's full name, may not be joined in matrimony to X's full name.

Officiant: Please repeat after me:

X: I call upon all persons present to witness that I, X's full name, take you, Y's full name, to be my lawful wedded partner/spouse/husband/wife.

Y: I call upon all persons present to witness that I, Y's full name, take you, X's full name, to be my lawful wedded partner/spouse/husband/wife.

Officiant:

X (full name), do you take Y (full name) to be your lawful partner/spouse/husband/wife (can end here or add) to have and to hold and to be faithful to him/her from this day forward, for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, so long as you both shall live?

First spouse answers: **I do.**

Officiant:

Y (full name), do you take X (full name) to be your lawful partner/spouse/husband/wife (can end here or add) to have and to hold and to be faithful to him/her from this day forward, for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, so long as you both shall live?

Second spouse answers: **I do.**

If there are to be personal vows, this is where they would go.

Officiant: Please present the rings. (Note: There is no requirement to exchange rings)

Your wedding ring is a symbol of your promise to one another. The ring, an unbroken, never ending circle, is a symbol of committed, unending love.

Y, as you place this ring on X's finger, repeat these words after me: As a token of the solemn vows of this marriage, I, full name, give you this ring.

X, as you place this ring on Y's finger, repeat these words after me: As a token of the solemn vows of this marriage, I, full name, give you this ring.

X and Y, you have come here today of your own free will and in the presence of family and friends, have declared your love and commitment to each other. You have given and received a ring as a symbol of your promises. By the power of your love and commitment to each other, and **by virtue of the authority vested in me by The Marriage Act, I pronounce you, X's full name and Y's full name, to be husband and wife/lawfully wedded partners/lawfully wedded.** You may now share a kiss to celebrate, only if you want to of course!

Signing of register.

Friends and family, I now present to you the newly married couple, (present names as requested)