

Sample Ceremony – Guests from Away Wedding

Welcome, family, friends and loved ones. We gather here today to celebrate the wedding of X and Y. You have come here to share in this formal commitment they make to one another, to offer your love and support to this union, and to allow X and Y to start their married life together surrounded by the people dearest and most important to them.

So welcome to one and all, who have traveled from near and far. X and Y thank you for your presence here today, and now ask for your blessing, encouragement, and lifelong support, for their decision to be married.

Marriage is perhaps the greatest and most challenging adventure of human relationships. No ceremony can create your marriage; only you can do that – through love and patience; through dedication and perseverance; through talking and listening, helping and supporting and believing in each other; through tenderness and laughter; through learning to forgive, learning to appreciate your differences, and by learning to make the important things matter, and to let go of the rest.

What this ceremony can do is to witness and affirm the choice you make to stand together as life-mates and partners.

Officiant, X please repeat after me:

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.

Officiant, Y please repeat after me:

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, X please repeat after me:

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.

Officiant, Y please repeat after me:

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.**

Officiant: We've come to the point of your ceremony where you're going to say your vows to one another. But before you do that, I ask you to remember that love – which is rooted in faith, trust, and acceptance - will be the foundation of an abiding and deepening relationship. No other ties are more tender, no other vows more sacred than those you now assume.

If you are able to keep the vows you take here today, not because of any religious or civic law, but out of a desire to love and be loved by another person fully, without limitation, then your life will have joy and the home you establish will be a place in which you both will find the direction of your growth, your freedom, and your responsibility.

Please now read the vows you have written for each other.

Vows

Officiant: Please present the 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.

Officiant: 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 your first kiss as husband and wife/married couple/wedded partners.

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