

Sample Ceremony - "These are the Hands"

Welcome everybody. We are thrilled that so many of you could make it here today. One of the wonderful things about a wedding is that it also serves as a multi-family reunion, and it always pleases me to learn how far people are willing to travel to be here on a day like this, for an event like this, which just goes to show you how important it is to mark these happy transitions in our lives. We have guests here today from A, B, C...Welcome! X and Y thank you for traveling here today.

Please face each other and take each other's hands so that you may see the gift that they are to you. These are the hands of your best friend, strong and full of love for you, that are holding yours on your wedding day as you promise to love each other today, tomorrow and forever. These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years, and with the slightest touch will comfort you like no other. These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it, support and encouragement to pursue your dreams, and comfort in difficult times. And lastly, these are the hands that even years from now will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just one touch.

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.**

Ring Exchange and vows

Wedding rings are a symbol of commitment and love. The rings are circular, like their love, with no beginning and no end. They represent what has been and what will always be. They are made of solid, sturdy material which is meant to survive years and years of hand-holding, washing dishes, swimming, tennis and tender caresses. Couples wear their wedding rings every day as a symbol of their love.

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

Signing

Ladies and gentlemen, please rise and welcome.....