

## Standard Marriage Ceremony

We have come together into this place which has been duly sanctioned according to law for the celebration of marriages, to witness the joining in matrimony of (Name) and (Name)

What is your full name?

Before you are joined in matrimony, I have to remind you of the solemn and binding character of the vows you are about to make. Marriage according to the law of this country is the union of two people voluntarily entered into for life to the exclusion of all others. Such marriage should not be entered into lightly or without due thought, but with respect and with the intention of sharing in each other's happiness.

(Name) and (Name) now intend to enter into such marriage and if any person knows of any lawful impediment why they may not be joined in matrimony you should declare it now.

Now I am going to ask each of you in turn to declare that that you do not know of any lawful reason why you should not be married to each other.

### **Groom/Bride repeat**

**I do solemnly declare that I know not of any lawful impediment why I (name) may not be joined in matrimony to (name)**

(Name) will you take (Name) to be your lawful wedded husband/wife. Will you love, honour and cherish him/her? Response **"I will"**

Option Who gives (name) to be married to (name)? ..... Response **"I do"**

Now the solemn moment has come for these two people to contract their marriage before you, their witnesses.

You have both publicly declared your freedom to marry and your intention to marry each other. I will now ask you both to make the declaration that will unite you in marriage.

### **Groom /Bride repeat**

**I call upon these persons here present to witness that I (name) do take thee (name) to be my lawful wedded wife/husband.**

Will you take the ring and place it over the third finger of (Name) left hand and say after me.

**"I give you this ring as a token of my love and affection, and the sharing of our lives together."**

(Name) and (Name) in the presence of your family and friends you have symbolised your marriage by the joining of hands, and the giving and receiving of rings; it is therefore my pleasure to declare that you are now joined in matrimony.