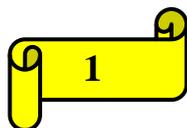


Weddings

With A

Blessing

Manual Number 1 of 140
Main Wedding Manual



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URL #2: <http://Demonology.yolasite.com> (Study Of Fallen Angels)

URL #3: <http://Exorcism.yolasite.com> (Exorcisms)

URL #4: <http://Hand-fasting.yolasite.com> (Handfasting)

URL #5: <http://Heaven&Hell.yolasite.com> (Study After Life)

URL #6: <http://HouseBlessing.yolasite.com> (Home Blessings)

URL #7: <http://Incarcerations.yolasite.com> (Jail/Prison/CMF, etc.)

URL #8: <http://Internments.yolasite.com> (Funerals)

URL #9: <http://LGBTweddings.yolasite.com> (LGBT Site)

URL #10: <http://Pinoyweddings.yolasite.com> (Filipino Weddings)

URL #11: <http://Quinceanera.yolasite.com> (Quinceanera Site)

URL #12: <http://Revwhitters.yolasite.com> (Christian)

URL #13: <http://UnityCeremonies.yolasite.com> (Unity Ceremonies)

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URL #15: <http://Wiccanweddings.yolasite.com> (Wicca Weddings)

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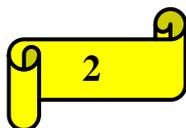
Linkedin: <http://www.linkedin.com/pub/reverend-steve-whitters/8/959/313/en>

Pinterest: <http://pinterest.com/swhitters1/whitters1>

Thumbtack: <http://www.thumbtack.com/WeddingsWithABlessing>

Tumblr: <http://www.tumblr.com/blog/whitters1> (Wedding Blog)

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/whitters4>



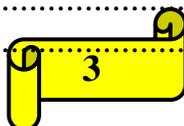
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Main Wedding Manual

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Date: 27 December 2016

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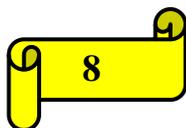
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MARRIAGE'S ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS

Microsoft Excel - PlanningWeddingWorksheet.xls

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1	Wedding Planner	7+ Months		6 - 3 Months				2 months				1 month															
2	Wedding Date:																										
3	12/11/2010																										
4	Due Date:	12/11	5/15	6/14	7/14	8/13	9/12	10/16	10/23	10/30	11/6	11/13	11/20	11/27	12/4												
5	Tasks																										
6	Announce your engagement																										
7	Start a notebook/file folder for wedding planning																										
8	Choose a wedding date	◆																									
9	Select wedding type - formal/informal, big/small	◆																									
10	Select a color scheme for wedding	◆																									
11	Set Wedding Date	◆																									
12	Finalize budget																										
13	Finalize a guest list with both families	◆																									
14	Reserve Ceremony & AHR sites																										
15	Sign contracts with sites																										
16	Make hotel reservations for Bride and Groom																										
17	Apply for passports/visas	◆																									
18	Design STD's and print																										
19	Mail and Address STD's																										
20	Book Photographer																										
21	Book Videographer																										
22	Engagement Photos Taken																										
23	Choose Attendants																										
24	Arrange activities for days before wedding																										
25	Schedule welcome dinner/cocktail hours																										
26	Purchase bride's dress																										
27	Make bride's veil																										
28	Purchase bride's shoes																										
29	Purchase bride's undergarments																										
30	Purchase bride's accessories																										
31	Purchase groom's suit																										
32	Purchase groom's shoes																										
33	Purchase groom's shirt																										

Sheet1 / Sheet2 / Sheet3

Ready NUM

Preparation For Marriage



Rules and Regulations: There are none. I like to have fun, and so should you!

As you read this manual, please remember that the sequence of chapters and the sequence of the wedding event are delivered in the correct ceremonial order. If you wish to change the order of deliverance, please notify Reverend Whitters of any changes. The good thing is, you can also add anything of your own to your wedding that is not covered in this manual.

Also note, that anything in **RED** shall be read by the pastor at any and all weddings unless so notified.

You will receive approximately 500 pages of printed documentation that we will review during our first meeting (This Manual - #1 of 120). You may also receive a DVD with another 34,000 pages or more of documentation that is not printed. There are another 119 manuals on the DVD for your review. The chapters contained in this manual are included for your information and immediate use. However, you may find that some of these other manuals could be appropriate for use during your wedding. E.g., Redneck Weddings and Ceremonial Traditions. They are included to give you the most complete information possible about weddings. The good thing is that this DVD will contain all 120 manuals. Please note that Manuals 119 and 120 are administrative manuals and are NOT provided.

I Am A Sacramento, California Wedding Officiant



An Insistence Of Excellence

Of all your wedding day events, none will be as important as the 30 minutes you entrust to the Sacramento wedding officiant performing your ceremony. All the time, effort and money you have invested in your wedding ceremony will culminate during that fraction of an hour. For there; in front of dozens or hundreds of your guests, you will both make your first statement as husband and wife. And cameras and video recorders will make your images, your words and most importantly- your wedding day decisions – permanent.

A great wedding ceremony is designed to engage its audience. It follows then that the bridal party should face their guests, which is visually alluring and eminently photogenic. The wording of the ceremony should be spoken in modern, conversational English whose meaning is readily and easily understood. And the choreography of the ceremony should involve a variety of highly effective vignettes, such as candle lighting or wine sharing along with the presentation of roses. This imagery, along with the interaction of your family and friends, honors their relationship with you before the on looking audience. These unforgettable moments produce smiles and tears – evidence that your guests have reached the coveted high ground of an entertainment event. That’s why the ceremony must evoke emotion – for feelings are what move us.

With proper guidance and planning, your ceremony will say the right things about you, through the words and events of your choosing, and create indelible memories in the hearts and minds of your guests. This tailor-made approach in wedding ceremony design will produce opportunities for exceptional photography and video footage, and will place everyone in a jubilant mood for the reception that follows.



I will approach your wedding as an opportunity- to show everyone present what this day means to you. I bring to my couples thousands of unique options they can use in making their ceremony photogenic, entertaining, and most importantly- evocative.

Greatness in a wedding ceremony will never be achieved by simply performing a rerun of the common wedding ceremony for your guests. Your wedding ceremony must be so much more than this.

Everything I do as a Sacramento wedding officiant is calculated for effect. Every word, every event, and every participant are collectively used in my ceremonies to deliver the praise and compliments of the audience.

The bride and groom are happiest when guests compliment them on their wedding. That's why meeting the needs of your audience is critical to the success of your ceremony. Your guests have a need and a right to see you, to hear you, and to be entertained by what you've invited them to, and for what they've given up their time for. Feelings are key to this for feelings make weddings just as feelings make movies and novels.

A wedding ceremony becomes entertaining and meaningful because it is moving the audience in some way. Ultimately, the events of my ceremonies are used to develop and direct those feelings toward the bride and groom. Experience has taught me as a Sacramento wedding officiant that brides are emotionally invested in the success of their weddings - after all, they've dreamed of this day most of their lives. Grooms, on the other hand, don't want their wedding ceremony to diminish their masculinity, and for that reason, often fear an overly sentimental wedding. As a result, the ceremony must balance the concerns of the bride and groom with their guest's need to be aptly entertained. Accordingly, I construct my wedding ceremonies around the words and events of my couples' choosing; presenting them in a format that engages and impacts their guests while respecting each of their concerns.

It is my intention to instill within my couples the confidence and know-how to become the lead actor and actress that my wedding ceremonies require of them. For I intend to make your presence not just photogenic but magnificent before your assembled guests- letting them admire you and your poised performance for the entirety of that coveted half hour.

I don't have a casual interest in how your wedding ceremony turns out. Neither will I assume that you are "naturally" ready to give such a beautiful performance. This is why every aspect of your ceremony is explained first in detail, and only then rehearsed. And this is also why my couples excel in their performances - for they know fundamentally what their ceremony requires of them, and they are then exceedingly comfortable and confident in delivering it.

The take-away is this:

From my planning session, where you will confidently choose the look and feel of a wedding ceremony that's best for you...

...to my rehearsal session, the most thorough in the industry, where you will gain that all important confidence which comes from expert knowledge and preparation...

...to the performance of your wedding ceremony, under my veteran directorship, guiding you gracefully through the beautiful events you will remember for a life time...

I want you to know that throughout all of this - you are in my good care, and that your wedding ceremony is going to be exceptional.



Getting To Know Reverend Steve Whitters, D. TH.

I've always been a performer. I retired in 1990 from the U.S. Marine Corps after 21 years of service. I was finally ordained in 2002 in hopes that I could carry a message of love and respect to the world through ceremony and song. I realized early on that I was ordained to lead and that I was happier serving humanity through casual ministry.

In 2003, I was asked to perform my first wedding and since then I've performed over 8000 weddings, hand-fasting, house blessings and commitment ceremonies. I feel I've found the perfect blend of ceremony, theatre and ministry in my line of work, and I'm honored and humbled every time a new couple asks me to help them through the process of designing a new ceremony just for them.

My favorite part of my wedding ministry is being able to meet with couples who don't really know exactly what they want, asking lots of questions about their style, their needs and their relationship and helping them design a ceremony that their guests gush over. "It was so...THEM!" is one of my favorite compliments and one I get to hear over and over again (it never loses its thrill for me). It's a true delight for me to be blessed with the opportunity to provide this service to couples in love.

Do you require and/or provide premarital counseling?

I do not require premarital counseling as I am not licensed as a counselor and do not provide premarital counseling services at this time. However, I still may be able to answer most questions as a non-professional.

We love the different service levels you offer and were very impressed by the testimonials other couples have given you. So what is it about your philosophy that makes you different from other wedding officiates?

First, let me correct the obvious stereotype. I'm not a humorless, solemn person who feels it's my job to frown on fun and remind everyone that marriage is a serious business. Marriage is serious, but a wedding is a celebration and I love it when my couples and their guests can have fun on their wedding day. Even my funerals are performed as "celebrations of life". I'm a happy person and my weddings tend to be that way as well.

The next thing people notice about my weddings is that I don't use a lot of the standard lines you hear in traditional weddings. I've only asked guests to "speak now or forever hold their peace" once in my career and that was because the couple really wanted it included. I've spent a lot of time studying the wording of the traditional wedding ceremony and I find a lot of sexist and outdated terms in many of them. Most modern

officiates already gave up on the word “obey” in the wedding vows and almost no one is pronounced “Man and wife” anymore, but there are still a number of areas where the old language persists; brides are still “given away”, grooms are still told to kiss their brides (as if the brides aren't expected to be kissing back!) and couples become “Mr. and Mrs.” (never “Mrs. and Mr.”) before the ceremony is complete.

I ask my couples about the traditional phrases and help them make decisions based on their desires. Sometimes the tradition is something they like and we keep it, but I'm also happy to rework it to better fit them or to scrap it altogether if it just doesn't work.

Also, coming from a very mixed spiritual background, I know and appreciate the difficulty of trying to combine traditions or celebrate in a faith that not all of your guests share. I have worked with Atheist, Catholic, Hindu, Buddhist, Pagan, Protestant, Jewish, Wiccan, Quaker, Taoist and New Age brides and grooms to blend, honor and share their faiths with each other and their guests. It isn't always easy, but where there's a will, there is always a way!

My weddings tend to be very personal celebrations so I love to share stories about how the couple met or when they knew they were meant for each other. When the ceremony is over I enjoy all of the comments guests make about feeling they know the newlyweds so much better now than before they walked into the service.

Where do you perform weddings?

I currently live in Elk Grove, California, but I love to travel and have celebrated weddings on the shores of the Pacific Ocean, in downtown Oakland and dozens of places in between. According to the laws of each state, I am able to legally solemnize weddings in all 50 States.

Some of the few venues I've enjoyed working in include The Delta King, Golden Gate Bridge Street; Jibboom Street Park (now Matsui Waterfront Park (Robert T.)); The Croatian American Cultural Center in Sacramento; Green Valley Country Club, Fairfield; Horticulture Gardens; Rose Garden Park off of Alhambra; Mission On the Hill, Vacaville; Grand Island Mansion, Walnut Grove; and plenty other backyards, hotels, chapels, parks and gardens as well.

If you're planning a wedding anywhere in Northern California, I'd love to help you out. If you're planning a wedding in one of our surrounding states, I may still be able to help by simply helping you write your dream ceremony even if you aren't interested in having me travel to you.

Will you work with the other vendors we have already hired?

Absolutely. I love meeting new vendors and helping them to help you have the most amazing wedding experience possible. Photographers and videographers tend to love me because I seek them out and ask what I can do to make your photos and videos wonderful. I been known to carry other vendor's equipment and help with set-up too. After all, I feel that it's better that I do it than your family or your guests!

Will you provide our Marriage License for us?

According to the laws of the State of California, marriage licenses must be applied for and picked up by the Bride and Groom, not the officiate. If you are both California residents you must apply for your license in your county of residence but you can use it to marry anywhere in California. Out of state residents must apply in the county where the ceremony is to be performed. For more information, check with your county clerk's office.

I do, however, provide a keepsake version of a certificate for display purposes. I have several styles and colors to choose from, so I'm certain to have one that will look lovely framed and displayed in your home.

We're excited about the idea of working with you but this sounds expensive. How much do you charge?

I charge according to the amount of work and time I expect will go into designing, researching, writing, editing, rehearsing and performing your ceremony and my prices are a little below average for this area. Since I am retired, I don't exceed market prices. My prices are NEVER over \$300.00.

It's true, I'm not the cheapest officiate in California, but there's a big difference between "cost" and "value" in everything and wedding officiates are no exception. If your budget is so tight that you feel you must find the officiate that costs the least, I'm probably not the one for you. You might be best served by a courthouse wedding or by a new officiate looking to train themselves by providing low cost weddings.

However, if you value quality, experience, talent and creativity – my prices are more than fair. If you have any doubts, call me to schedule your FREE wedding design session so we can discuss them. Meeting with me won't cost you anything, so it's a great value!

What kind of couples do you feel you work best with?

I work very well with all sorts of couples, but honestly I seem to connect the most with couples who want a somewhat non-traditional ceremony and who consider themselves to be either non-religious or "spiritual but not religious". I call these couples "spiritually independent" as they tend to reject traditional religious labels.

I also work best with couples who truly care about the words that go into their ceremonies. If you want your guests to get emotional or laugh out loud during your ceremony, we'll get along very well.

What kind of couples do you not work well with?

I'm very open to working with couples from all sorts of backgrounds, but I do find that people with strong religious beliefs and those who want to be told “the right way” to “do a wedding” don't care much for my style. Also, if you're just looking for the fastest, easiest way to get married so you can get to the really important part of the wedding - the reception - I may not be the right officiate for you.

Regardless, I do run a local network of wedding officiates and if I'm not the right person for you, I can almost always find someone in my network who is a better match. So even the people who don't want to work with me can often still gain from contacting me anyway!

Do you perform commitment ceremonies for same gender couples?

Absolutely YES! My job is to officiate couples who want to marry. Their gender makes no difference to me.

What happens if you're sick on my wedding day?

This is an excellent question. I have a host of wedding officiates who are willing to cover for me in a pinch. Additionally, I am a member of the American Association of Wedding Officiates (AAWO) and can call on any of the 200-odd fellow officiate members in my region.

Thankfully, I am in excellent health. I have never needed to ask for a replacement officiate. I am a California native and will drive through snow, sleet and floods to reach a wedding, and I have the testimonials to prove it!

What exactly is your privacy policy?

I take my commitment to professionalism very seriously, so I never sell, rent or share information about the couples that contact me unless I am asked, by the couple themselves, or to provide them with another officiate. In that case, I will ask for your permission before forwarding your contact information on to other Officiates or to the American Association of Wedding Officiates (AAWO) in my region.

My 15 Web Sites do not use cookies of any kind. The only information I collect is the information you offer me and I only use it to provide you information about my services, weddings in general and, if (and only if) you request it, information about my fellow

officiates. I cannot guarantee that all my fellow officiates are as committed to your privacy as I am, but I believe that most of them are. My fifteen web sites are:

- URL #1: <http://Angelology.yolasite.com> (Study Of Angels)
- URL #2: <http://Demonology.yolasite.com> (Study Of Fallen Angels)
- URL #3: <http://Exorcism.yolasite.com> (Exorcisms)
- URL #4: <http://Hand-fasting.yolasite.com> (Handfasting)
- URL #5: <http://Heaven&Hell.yolasite.com> (Study After Life)
- URL #6: <http://HouseBlessing.yolasite.com> (Home Blessings)
- URL #7: <http://Incarcerations.yolasite.com> (Jail/Prison/CMF, etc.)
- URL #8: <http://Internments.yolasite.com> (Funerals)
- URL #9: <http://LGBTweddings.yolasite.com> (LGBT Site)
- URL #10: <http://Pinoyweddings.yolasite.com> (Filipino Weddings)
- URL #11: <http://Quinceanera.yolasite.com> (Quinceanera Site)
- URL #12: <http://Revwhitters.yolasite.com> (Christian)
- URL #13: <http://UnityCeremonies.yolasite.com> (Unity Ceremonies)
- URL #14: <http://www.whitters.org> (Weddings)
- URL #15: <http://Wiccanweddings.yolasite.com> (Wicca Weddings)

- With more being processed as we speak -

You sound like the perfect officiate for us. What do we do now?

Wonderful! Please call me, at home/Cell (916) 214-3980; fill out my Questionnaire and Price Sheet; or E-Mail me so we can schedule your free ceremony design consultation session and begin discussing your needs and ideas for your ceremony. Once I have a better idea of your needs I can suggest one of the thousands of packages I currently offer, and we can work from there.

Can we talk to other couples who have hired you in the past?

Absolutely! I maintain a list of couples who have indicated they are willing to talk to couples considering booking me for their upcoming weddings. I will make a copy of it available to you at our initial design consultation meeting. Additionally, you can look at some of the testimonials I've collected - check out the messages in my guestbook – and see my reviews on Wedding Wire!

I don't know, I still have some questions about you and/or your services.

That's not a problem, I'll be happy to answer your remaining questions. Please call me at Cell (916) 214-3980, E-Mail me or complete the Questionnaire at the end of this manual so we can schedule your free consultation right away.

I look forward to meeting you soon and helping you design a wedding ceremony that's uniquely and completely you!



Blessings,

Reverend Steve Whitters, D. TH.
5408 Fern Valley Way
Elk Grove, California 95757-3306
(916) 214-3980

E-Mail: whitters9570@yahoo.com
URL #1: <http://Angelology.yolasite.com> (Study Of Angels)
URL #2: <http://Demonology.yolasite.com> (Study Of Fallen Angels)
URL #3: <http://Exorcism.yolasite.com> (Exorcisms)
URL #4: <http://Hand-fasting.yolasite.com> (Handfasting)
URL #5: <http://Heaven&Hell.yolasite.com> (Study After Life)
URL #6: <http://HouseBlessing.yolasite.com> (Home Blessings)
URL #7: <http://Incarcerations.yolasite.com> (Jail/Prison/CMF, etc.)
URL #8: <http://Internments.yolasite.com> (Funerals)
URL #9: <http://LGBTweddings.yolasite.com> (LGBT Site)
URL #10: <http://Pinoyweddings.yolasite.com> (Filipino Weddings)
URL #11: <http://Quinceanera.yolasite.com> (Quinceanera Site)
URL #12: <http://Revwhitters.yolasite.com> (Christian)
URL #13: <http://UnityCeremonies.yolasite.com> (Unity Ceremonies)
URL #14: <http://www.whitters.org> (Weddings)
URL #15: <http://Wiccanweddings.yolasite.com> (Wicca Weddings)
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/stevewhitters>
Gigmasters: <http://www.gigmasters.com/event-coordinator/steve-whitters>
Instagram: <http://www.instagram.com/whitters9570/?hl=en>
Linkedin: <http://www.linkedin.com/pub/reverend-steve-whitters/8/959/313/en>
Pinterest: <http://pinterest.com/swhitters1/whitters1>
Thumbtack: <http://www.thumbtack.com/WeddingsWithABlessing>
Tumblr: <http://www.tumblr.com/blog/whitters1> (Wedding Blog)
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/whitters4>

Your Wedding Ceremony Planning Session



Mike And Pam Reviewing Their DVD

Learning What Over 4000 Couples Have Taught Me

This 60-minute interview and wedding ceremony planning session gives the bride and groom an opportunity to get acquainted with me and to learn about the many effective options I bring to wedding ceremonies. During this time you will share with me how you envision your ceremony, and I will advise you on the best ways of putting that together. I will also help you identify the accessories you will need to purchase as well as the types of vendors to be contacted.

Most importantly, you will receive a DVD of over 36,000 pages of Wedding Ceremonies, Unity Ceremonies, Wedding Theme Ideas, and a full range of wedding documentation.



This first interview will take place at a Starbucks, the wedding site, at a restaurant local to you, or your home; whichever you prefer.

I will help you to understand not only the type of ceremony that's right for you, but the options and accessories that should accompany it as well. Effective planning is the foundation on which your entire wedding ceremony experience will rest. Please know that you also have complete power of editorship, nothing will be said or done during your ceremony without your prior approval.

An interview normally requires an hour and it is conducted free of charge.

Before You Continue.....

So, you've made it this far – actually planning your wedding yourself? Perhaps you've been thinking about this for many years, maybe you haven't even given it a thought. The time has now come to talk together about this.

There are plenty of books around which tell you all the ins and outs of weddings. These you can buy or borrow for help in arranging details. I would like to caution you not to be blown over by all the wedding arrangements. Your wedding is first and foremost not a production, but a celebration. Focus upon what is most important: your commitment to each other in the presence of God and a group of people - people who care enough, about you and God, to stand with you in that high moment, as well as high and low moments in the future.

Don't lose sight of what you are doing as you handle all the details. A beautiful wedding gown, attendant's outfits, handsome tuxedos, rings, flowers, pictures, videos, guest lists, gifts, rehearsal dinners, receptions, honeymoons, etc. don't make your special day "a day to remember." As important as all these may be, it is your commitment that should provide a remembrance worthy of the ups and downs of married life.

Okay, the time has come to talk together about what you do when you say "I do." I'd encourage you to work as a team in planning your wedding, even if one of you takes the lead. Talk about it! Work together! How you plan your wedding will be, in a small part, an indication of how you work together in marriage.

To help you plan - I have created 90 manuals for your information on a DVD. They are full of all sorts of suggestions, traditional and non-traditional. Please see them as resources, not a law book. They are here for you, to use as much or as little as you see fit. God bless you as you work together.

May this be a really special time in your life together.

Reverend Steve Whitters

Choosing A Wedding Officiate





**I am a Certified Reverend, Minister, Pastor, Chaplain, Preacher, and Wedding
Officiant**





1. First Things First. Your ceremony is the heart and soul of your wedding and will likely be the most personal memory of this special day. So choosing an officiate is more critical than most people realize. Many couples, especially those who do not have a regular place of worship, plan in advance for everything but the wedding Officiate! Personal referrals can give you a sense of security but make sure that the Officiate meets your individual needs and requirements. There are many things to consider.

The Officiate

2. If at all possible, meet personally with the Officiate to make sure you're comfortable in their presence. It helps to discuss in advance what you are looking for as a couple so you are prepared to ask questions about everything that is important to you. Are they available for your wedding date and can you imagine them presiding over your special day? Do you like their voice and will it carry? What will they wear? Do they appear to be sensitive and flexible in relating to you? Do you sense they can collaborate with other wedding professionals to make your day joyful and elegant? Remember that your Officiate should be able to reflect your values, beliefs and the meaningful aspects that are unique and special about your relationship.

Communications

Communications between you and the Officiate is utmost critical. Ensure that you keep your Officiate informed and in the loop at all times. Keep your phone calls and any E-mail consistently traveling between you two and the Officiate. If your wedding date is months away, use your e-mail to keep in constant contact. Don't hesitate to call if you need assistance.

Pre-Marital Education

3. Does the Officiate require your participation in pre-marital education or counseling? If not, are you interested in participating? Even when not required, pre-marital education is an excellent investment in your future. Learning more about each other's strengths and weaknesses and gaining enhanced communication/conflict resolution skills ensures the best possible foundation for a happy marriage. Please remember that pre-marital education is NOT Marriage Counseling.

The Ceremony and Vows

4. Will the Officiate work with you to develop a special ceremony which honors you as a couple? Can you use contemporary readings or are religious or scriptural readings required? Can you write your own vows or add special touches? Your ceremony should be an authentic expression of who you are as individuals and as a couple. For the most

personal and unique wedding ceremony, your Officiate should act as a guide and co-creator -- not a director.

Location

5. Do you want to be married in a church, on the beach, or at some other special location? Is your Officiate registered in the state or country where you plan to be married? (California does not require any registration) Do special location arrangements need to be made and who will make them?

Fees and Other Considerations

6. Fees vary depending on services and travel requirements. Do you want the Officiate only at the wedding ceremony or will you require them to be present at a rehearsal? Do you want to invite them to the rehearsal dinner and/or the dinner/reception after your wedding? Don't assume anything without asking about each of these possibilities and receiving clear answers from your officiate. Also see the full chapter on "Pricing".

7. Do you believe your wedding Officiate will act as a trusted advisor capable of meeting your needs through listening and encouragement, linking you to other resources, or providing direction if desired? This is your day -- choosing the right wedding Officiate will create a special memory for years to come.

8. Is the wedding Officiate certified? Do they have credentials? See the following chapters for some of my credentials.

Ceremony: Clergy / Religious and Civil Options

9. Other than getting the marriage license, finding someone to perform the ceremony is the most vital element of your nuptial union. After all, making it legal is what the occasion is largely about.

10. Coordinating the ceremony site, clergy person and reception location should be the first order of business. Getting the exact date you want, with all three, can be difficult if you wait too far into the planning process. So don't procrastinate.

11. For couples belonging to a specific religious organization, finding a clergy person is relatively easy. Those raised with different religious backgrounds often prefer to have a clergy person from each religion perform what is called an interfaith ceremony. For those not affiliated with any one particular denomination, finding someone to fill this important role may require a more diligent search.

12. If religious affiliation is not a concern there's the option of a civil ceremony. Call the county clerk's office to inquire whether civil ceremonies are performed in the clerk's office or if Superior and/or Municipal court judges are available to perform ceremonies, either in their chambers or at the wedding site.

13. Before you begin your search, take time to examine how you and your fiancé envision the ceremony. Here are a few questions to ask yourselves before meeting with potential clergy:

- Do you plan on marrying in a house of worship, outdoors, or at the same location as the ceremony?
- Approximately how long will the ceremony be?
- Are there religious customs or traditions that either of you feel strongly about incorporating?
- Do you want to exchange traditional vows or will you write your own?
- Will you have readers and vocalists?

14. Having a clear-cut picture of the type of ceremony you would like to have will help to narrow the selection of available clergy.

15. Expect that most clergy will require some type of premarital counseling prior to the wedding. Counseling of this nature can be very beneficial, especially when conversion or the unions of differing religious backgrounds are involved.

16. If you cancel your wedding for any reason, please inform me! I may be able to salvage your wedding, especially if you two are still deeply in love. Arguments are normal in married life, and the stress of marriage can put a damper on things. Try postponing the wedding. Talk to your parents, brothers and sisters. Talk to anybody that you can confide in.

Wedding Ceremony Planning

Tips On 'How To Select Your Wedding Officiate

Officiate Hiring Tip #1:

When selecting a Wedding Clergy, Judge, or other type of Wedding Minister, be certain that they know how to use a microphone, if having amplified sound! You'd be surprised how many Wedding Officiates don't know the difference between a microphone that is Omni-directional and one that is mono-directional!

Officiate Hiring Tip #2:

Before hiring a Wedding Officiate make certain that they offer an agreeable back-up, in the event of their sudden unavailability. Loss of voice, illness, etc., are possible and may leave you stranded for an Officiator! We provide Emergency Wedding Clergy Guarantee Service!

Officiate Hiring Tip #3:

Before hiring a Wedding Officiate make certain that you & your fiancée will have say in the type of clothing, the Officiator, will wear to preside at your ceremony. Believe you me, couples have seen all kinds of get-ups! Not very complimentary at that!

4. This Officiate planning tool will help you to better select your wedding judge, justice of the peace, officiator, marriage ceremony minister, Rabbi, Roman Catholic priest or non-denominational wedding Officiate. Before meeting with your potential Officiator, Minister, Clergy, Justice of the Peace, Wedding Judge, Rabbi, etc.,. Research the Officiates reputation in the wedding community. Ask for references to couples they have previously married and/or wedding professionals they have worked with on a regular basis. Check references until you are satisfied.



5. Note: If the references are to wedding professionals, be certain that they are recommending your potential Officiate, because they are good at what they do, as well as reliable..... Not simply due to financial "kick-backs" between the Officiate & that wedding professional. Nor due to the Officiates payment to the wedding location for his/her advertisement in the same location's wedding brochure!

6. Before meeting for an in-person interview of your possible Wedding Officiator, be certain as to the Officiates range of education & training in - public speech, wedding ceremony planning, wedding ceremony & vow construction & writing. If the Officiator seems knowledgeable, is degreed & trained accordingly, etc., schedule an interview.

7. Also before interviewing, make certain of some of the following 8 hiring tips (Left side and below).

8. That the Officiate will guarantee he/she will "stick to", the agreed upon ceremony content & wording.

Ten Questions To Ask Your Officiate

If you've decided to have a civil ceremony but aren't sure how to choose an Officiate, here are ten questions you definitely want to ask.

1

Is the Officiate available on your wedding date?

2

Can the Officiate travel to your chosen wedding site?

3

If you don't have a site, can the Officiate suggest one or provide a courthouse or meeting room?

4

Does the officiate charge a standard fee? Is the fee a donation?

5

How long has the Officiate been performing weddings? Why does he/she do them?

6

Does the Officiate have sample wording/ceremonies/readings to show you?

7

Will the officiate let you specify ceremony details such as music, readings, and vows? Can you include religious touches if desired?

8

Is the Officiate available for a ceremony rehearsal?

9

Does the Officiate make you comfortable? Does he or she seem genuinely interested in you as a couple? Be sure you like and respect your Officiate -- and that the feeling is mutual.

10

Would the Officiate (and his/her spouse) like to come to the reception and rehearsal dinner?

And Just Some Of My Certifications

Date	Certification				
16 May 1969	Certified as a Hypnotherapist by the Greenwood Center for Hypnotism				
28 August 2008	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>Universal Life Church, International Headquarters,</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Modesto, CA Ordained as a Reverend</td> </tr> </table>	Universal Life Church, International Headquarters,		Modesto, CA Ordained as a Reverend	
Universal Life Church, International Headquarters,					
Modesto, CA Ordained as a Reverend					
14 October 2008	New Horizon Ministry, Inc. P. O. Box 29267, Providence, RI 02909-0995 Chaplain Number is #1215				
10 October 2008	New Horizon Ministry, Silver Lake, Wisconsin Ordained as a Minister				
10 October 2008	International Association of Christian Chaplains, Inc., 5804 Babcock Road, PMB 189, San Antonio, Texas 78240-2134 Ordained as a Chaplain				
13 October 2008	International Association of Evangelical Chaplains Member				
13 October 2008	International Chaplains Association Professional Member, ICA Member # 3985356819				

18 October 2008	American Association of Wedding Officiates Member
21 October 2008	Shalom International, St. Paul School of Leadership, P.O. Box 779, Windomar, CA. 92595 Member
06 March 2009	God's Living Words Ministries, 3108 Maryland St., Longview, Washington 98632 Ordained as a Reverend
09 October 2008	The Church of Spiritual Humanism, P.O. Box 180, Jenkintown, PA. 19046 Ordained as a Reverend, Nr. 190683
17 March 2009	Gospel Truth Ministries Prophetic Voice Institute P.O. Box 1885 Cincinnati, OH 45201-1885 Received: Diploma in the Deaconate Received: Diploma in Discipleship Received: Diploma in Ministry
25 January 2010	Sacramento Hospice Consortium Received Certification as Hospice Volunteer
12 December 2010	Amazing Facts Bible School, Roseville, CA Received Certificate of Completion
02 July 2011	World Christianship Ministries, Fresno, CA. Received Certificate of Ordination Received Title As "Reverend" by Bishop McElroy

07 August 2011	American Marriage Ministries Received Ordination Minister ID: 108374
01 January 2009	American Association of Wedding Officiants Member
14 November 2011	My Heart is Your Ministry Member

8 September 2012 **Open Ministry, 815 E Street, #122990, San Diego, CA 92101
(413) 248-7247
Received Ordination**

8 September 2012 **National Association of Christian Ministers
Member**

12 April 2012 **Church of Seven Planes, Cooper, Texas
Ordained**

5 April 2013 **Association For Butterflies, 465 Sunnybrooke Road, Trenton, SC
29847
Issued Certificate as “Certified Butterfly Release Professional”**

25 March 2015 **Certified Wedding Professionals, Member Number: 27673088,
P.O. 1136, Thousand Oaks, CA 91358 - Phone: (805) 852-5384**

12 March 2016 **Ordained by the Church Of Latter-Day Dude -**

International Chaplains Association



In recognition of professional membership
Reverend J. Steven Whitters, D. D.
is hereby awarded this

CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP

Rev. J. C. Smith
Chaplain-General

Given
October 13, 2008

Verify Membership
www.ChristianChaplain.com

Credentials of Ministry

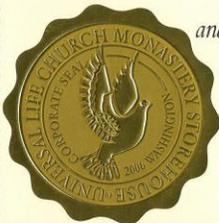
THIS IS TO CERTIFY

Thomas Steven Whitters Jr.

That The Bearer Hereof Has Been Ordained

On this day, the 26 of August, in the year, 2008

*and is officially recognized as a member of the monastery
and has all rights and privileges to perform all duties of the ministry.*



[Signature]
CHAPLAIN, BR. MARTIN



New Horizon Ministry



Certificate of Ordination

Be it known to all men/women, in accordance with the authority vested in them under the laws of this Nation and the Holy Bible; Pastor Michael Michaud hereby grants the request of;

Reverend J. Steven Whitters Jr., D.D.

and hereby appoint you ordained as an Independent Christian Minister since the 10th day of October in the year of our Lord 2008.

With all freedoms, entitlements, and exceptions due to such distinction in testimony whereof they have caused this certificate to be imprinted with the seal of this ministry and subscribed by a duly authorized representative.

Rev. Michael F. Michaud

Rev. Michael F. Michaud, Pastor
Administrator/Pastor
New Horizon Ministry



World Christiansh Ministries



United in Christ

Certificate of Ordination

This is to certify that the below named individual has been Ordained and Licensed into the Christian Ministry as Independent Clergy on: July 2, 2011.

Steven Whitters

World Christiansh Ministries authorizes this individual the authority to perform standard Christian services on behalf of the Christian faith and in accordance with the teachings of the Holy Bible.

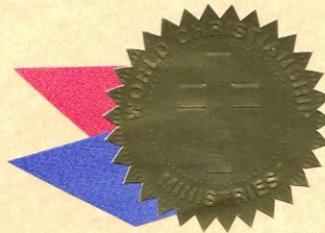
Paul O'Malley

Administrator/Bishop or Admin. Assistant
World Christiansh Ministries
Fresno, CA. 93747-8041 USA
Acts 15:11, Mark 16:15, 2 Timothy 3:16

Ferry Johnson

Ordination Committee

Note: Ordination credentials from WCM are not valid for entrance to jails or other penal facilities



UNIVERSAL LIFE CHURCH
THE MONASTERY

Wedding Officiant

THIS CERTIFIES THAT

UPON SIGNING BELOW, THE BEARER OF THIS CERTIFICATE, AFTER PROPER ORDINATION THROUGH THE

Universal Life Church Monastery,

AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL LAWS OF THEIR STATE AND COUNTRY,
IS AWARDED AND MAY USE THE TITLE OF WEDDING OFFICIANT
AND MAY PERFORM ALL THE DUTIES THEREOF.

THE BEARER ALSO ASSUMES ALL THE LIABILITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR PERFORMING THOSE SERVICES WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE LAW.

Rev. Thomas Steven Whitten Sr.

NAME OF OFFICIANT



UNIVERSAL LIFE CHURCH
THE MONASTERY

Doctor of Divinity

THIS IS TO CERTIFY

Thomas Steven Whitters, Jr.

Has Been Awarded A Doctor Of Divinity Degree

On this day, the 26th of August, in the year, 2008

by the Universal Life Church Monastery
for outstanding recognition upon completion of studies of the doctrine of the faith.




CHAPLAIN, BR. MARTIN



Universal Life Church Seminary

4714 Careyback Avenue, Elk Grove, CA 95758

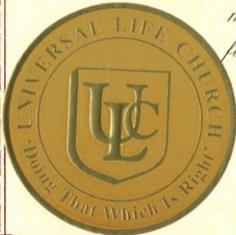
www.ulcseminary.org

Reverend

This is to certify that

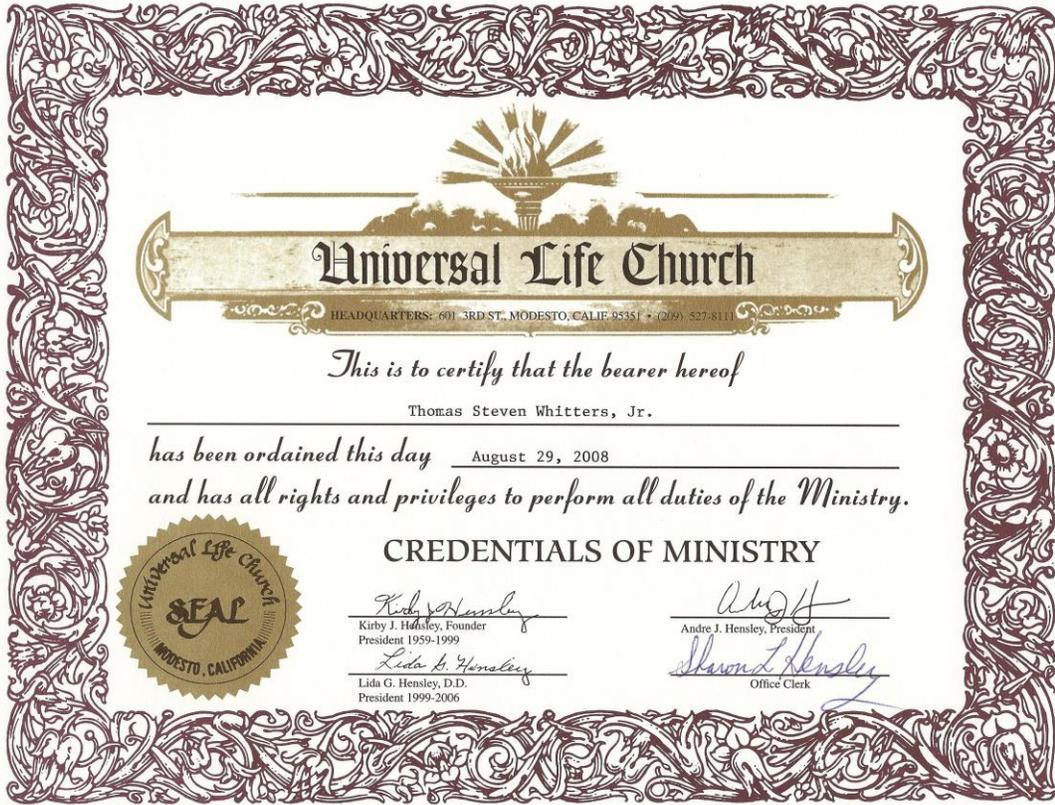
Steve Whitters

*has been awarded the title of Reverend on this day, the 29th of August, in the year
2008 by the Quest Ministries of Universal Life Church and ULC Seminary, Inc. in
meritorious recognition of outstanding works completed
following the principles of the Universal Life Church.*



Rev. Amy Eileen Long

Rev. Amy Eileen Long - President



Universal Life Church

HEADQUARTERS: 601 3RD ST., MODESTO, CALIF. 95351 • (209) 527-8111

This is to certify that the bearer hereof

Thomas Steven Whitters, Jr.

*has been ordained this day August 29, 2008
and has all rights and privileges to perform all duties of the Ministry.*

CREDENTIALS OF MINISTRY



Kirby J. Hensley
Kirby J. Hensley, Founder
President 1959-1999

Lida G. Hensley
Lida G. Hensley, D.D.
President 1999-2006

Andre J. Hensley
Andre J. Hensley, President

Sharon L. Hensley
Office Clerk



The Prophetic Voice Institute

Gospel Truth Ministries • <http://www.gtm.org/>
P.O. Box 1885 • Cincinnati, Ohio 45201 • USA

Diploma in Discipleship

Rev. Thomas Steven Whitters, Jr.

Is Awarded this **Diploma in Discipleship** on this 17th day of **March, 2009**,
as public testimony of having completed the entire course of study,
and is hereby committed, by **Gospel Truth Ministries**,
to the Grace of God and the service of both the Church and the world.



Joseph Kostelnik Ph.D.

Founder and President

Barbara L. Kostelnik, Ph.D.

Vice President

Jeffrey L. Eldred M.A.

Academic Dean



The Prophetic Voice Institute

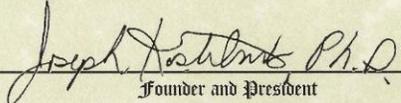
Gospel Truth Ministries • <http://www.gtm.org/>
P.O. Box 1885 • Cincinnati, Ohio 45201 • USA

Diploma in the Deaconate

Rev. Thomas Steven Whitters, Jr.

Is Awarded this **Diploma in the Deaconate** on this 26th day of **March**, 2009,
as public testimony of having completed the entire course of study,
and is hereby committed, by **Gospel Truth Ministries**,
to the Grace of God and the service of both the Church and the world.





Joseph Kostelnik, Ph.D.
Founder and President



Barbara A. Kuttick, D.M.
Vice President



Jeffrey Van Eldred, M.A.
Academic Dean



The Prophetic Voice Institute

Gospel Truth Ministries • <http://www.gtm.org/>
P.O. Box 1885 • Cincinnati, Ohio 45201 • USA

Diploma in Ministry

Rev. Thomas Steven Whitters, Jr.

Is Awarded this **Diploma in Ministry** on this 21st day of July, 2009,
as public testimony of having completed the entire course of study,
and is hereby committed, by **Gospel Truth Ministries**,
to the Grace of God and the service of both the Church and the world.



Joseph Kostelnik Ph.D.

Founder and President

Barbara L. Kostelnik, D.M.

Vice President

Jeffrey L. Eldred M.A.

Academic Dean

International Federation of Christian Chaplains, Inc.

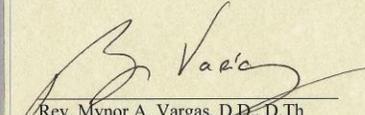
Be it known that the International Board of Trustees of this Ministry on the recommendation of the President and by the authority of the statutes of this Corporation has bestowed on

Thomas Steven Whitters, Jr.

The Certification of
International Certified Christian Chaplain

With all the rights, privileges, responsibilities and obligations thereto pertaining

This Sixteen day of September of the Year of our Lord Jesus Christ Two Thousand Eight


Rev. Mynor A. Vargas, D.D., D.Th
President.



#1215



CERTIFICATE OF ORDINATION

THIS DOCUMENT HEREBY AFFIRMS THAT

Steve Whitters

HAS BEEN ORDAINED BY THE CHURCH OF THE LATTER-DAY DUDE

ON THIS DAY

March 12, 2016

Rev. [Signature]
SIGNED



DUDEISM.COM

Types Of Wedding Ceremonies That I Perform

Airport Weddings
Anniversary Weddings
Atheist Weddings (We don't judge)
Bachelor Party, Bachelorette Party
Backyard Weddings
Big Wedding Ceremony
California Beach Weddings
California Confidential Marriages
California Destination Weddings
California Garden Weddings
Casual Wedding
Celebrity Weddings
Celtic
Children Weddings
Christian Weddings
Civil Weddings
Contemporary
County Sheriff Lockup Weddings
Country Club Weddings
County - Western
Cousin Weddings
Cowboy Weddings
Double Barrel Shotgun Weddings
Double Weddings
Elopements
Fun And Funny
Formal
Golf Club Marriages
Green Card by Marriage
Green Weddings
Hand-Fasting
Hawaiian Wedding Theme
Hellenic/Greek Neopaganism
Home Weddings
Hospital Bedside Ceremonies
Hospital Weddings
Indoor Weddings

Informal
Instant Weddings
Interfaith Weddings
Jail House Weddings
Large Weddings
Legal Marriage Before the Event for Friends and Family
Lesbian/Gay/Bi-sexual/Transvestite (LGBT)
Luxury California Weddings
Marriage Vow Renewal
Medieval
Military
Neopaganism
Non-Denominational
Non-Religious Wedding Ceremony
Non-Traditional
Numerology Weddings
Outdoor Weddings
Pagan
Park Weddings
Planned Weddings
Pre-cruise Weddings
Private Wedding Ceremony (with just the two of you)
Prison Weddings
Quickies
Redneck
Religious Weddings
Remarriages
Renewal Weddings
Renaissance
Rose Garden Weddings
Second Time Around Weddings
Short and Sweet Marriages
Shotgun Weddings
Simple Home Weddings
Simple Weddings
Small Weddings
Spiritual
Surprise Weddings
Themed Weddings

Traditional
Vow Renewals
Weddings with Children
Weekday Weddings
Western Weddings
Wicca
Wine Weddings

and much, much more...

Types Of Religious Services That I Perform



The Major World Religions



Agnosticism

American Indian

Animism (is the worldview that non-human entities (animals, plants, and inanimate objects or phenomena) possess a spiritual essence)

Asatru

Atheism

Non-Religious/Non-Denominational

Baha'i Faith



Buddhism



Cao Daism (Vietnamese)

Celtic Druidism

Christianity; (To include: African Independent Church (AIC), Assemblies of God (AOG), Anglican, Baptist, Evangelical, Jehovah's Witness, Methodist, Monophysite, Quakers, SOA's, Wesleyan, Pentecostal, Lutheran, Protestants, Later Day Saints (Mormon), Catholic (Free Catholic, Anglo-Catholic, Roman Catholic, Greek Catholic, Laps Catholic, Old Catholic, Independent Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Catholic)

Church Unitarian

Confucianism 

Damanhur Community
Deism

Druze

Eckankar

Elian Gonzalez Religious Movement

Enlightenment

Falun Gong

Germantic Neopaganism

Gnosticism

Greco-Roman Religion

Gypsies

Hare Krishna - ISKCON 

Hinduism 

Humanism

Islam 

Jainism 

Judaism 


Jungian

Lukumi

Materialism

Medieval

Modernism

Monism

Monotheism

Mormonism

Native American Spirituality

Natural Law

Neopaganism

New Age

Norse Paganism

Nature Spiritualist

Neopaganism

Odinism

Pagan/Wiccan

Pantheism

Polytheism

Primal Faith

Rastafarianism

Renaissance

Sabbatarian

Sainism

Scientology

Secularism (Humanist)

Shinto 神道

Shite

Sikhism 

Spirtism/Spiritualism

Stoicism Universalism

Sunni

Taoism 

Tenrikyo

Tewahedo (Ethiopian)

Theism

Unitarian-Universalism

Vodun (Voodoo)

Wicca 

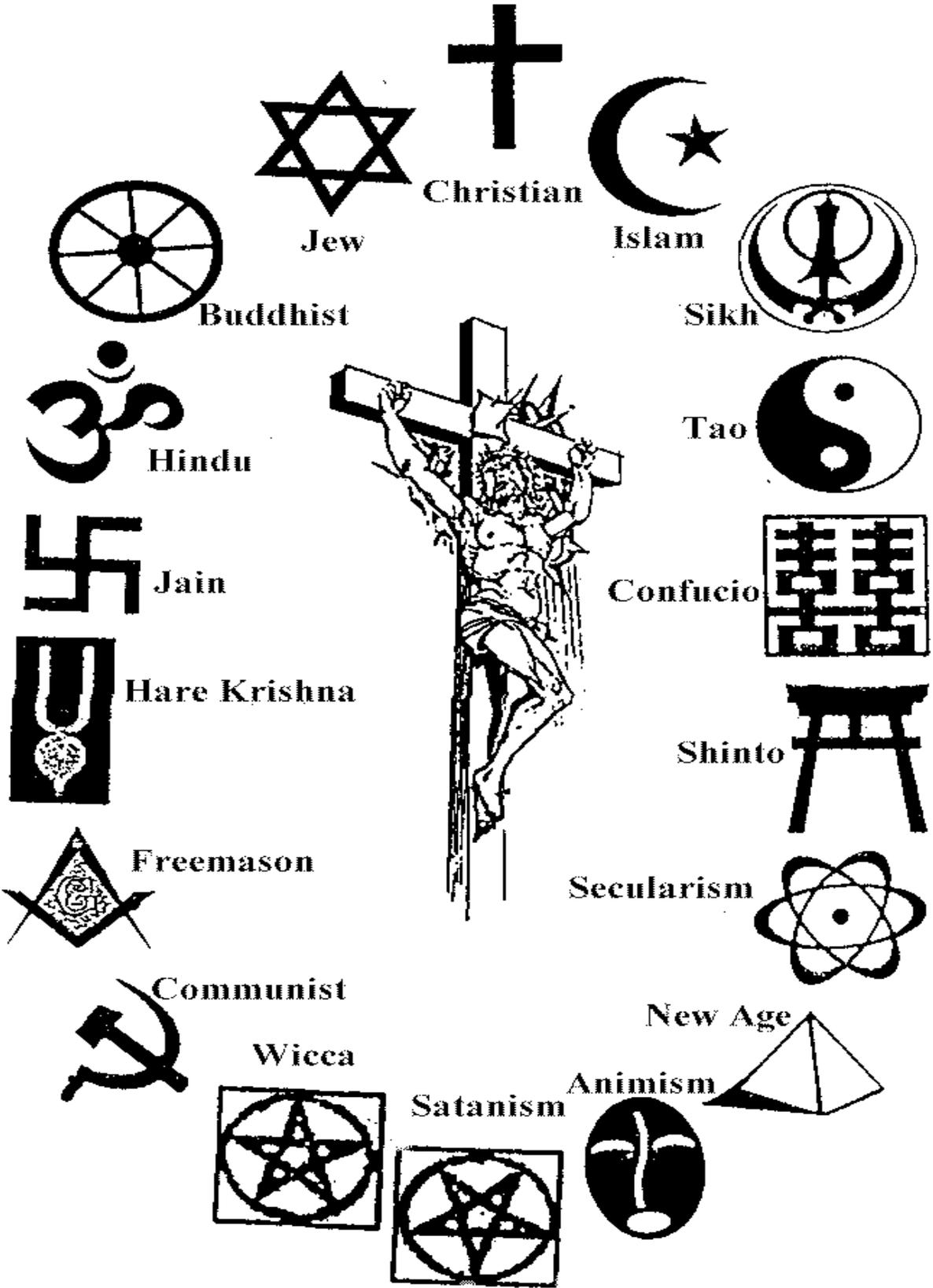

Wodenism

Wotanism

Zoroastrianism 

Symbols of Religions





Jew



Christian



Islam



Buddhist



Sikh



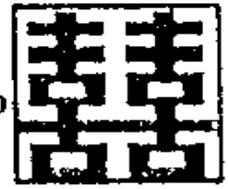
Hindu



Tao



Jain



Confucio



Hare Krishna

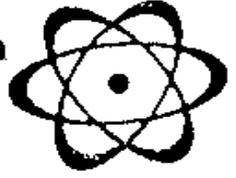


Shinto



Freemason

Secularism



Communist

New Age

Wicca



Satanism



Animism



In Addition To Wedding Ceremonies

(You May Wish To Retain My Services For The Following Occasions)

Absolution of Sin
Angelology
Anointing of Holy Water and Oils
Baby Dedications
Baptisms
Bible Studies
Blessings (Of Person, Place or Thing)
Commitment Ceremony (Traditional or Alternative)
Counseling and Assistance
Demonism/Demonology
Educational Services
First Communion
Funerals, Eulogy or Memorial Service
Grief Support
Hand Fasting (A Celtic Tradition)
Holy Card Making
Holy Communion (Host And Wine)
Hospice Education and Support
Hospital Visits and Bedside Prayers
House Blessing
Hypnotherapy
Last Rites
Penance (Reconciliation)
Prayers for the Sick and Healing
Pre-marriage Counseling
Quinceanera's
Reconciliation (Penance)
Religious Support
Renewal of Wedding Vows
Rite of Exorcism and Demons
Spiritual and Religious Services
Spiritual Care and Counseling

THE MARRIAGE APPLICATION PROCESS

Online Marriage License Application

Information About The First Person

None | Groom | Bride

* First Name * Date of Birth (e.g. MM/DD/YYYY)

Middle Name * State of Birth OTHER

Last Name (if other)

Last Name at Birth

New Middle Name

New Last Name

If you are unsure of your legal middle name or you do not have one, please leave this field blank.

* Driver's license/ID /Passport number Expiration Month MM Expiration Year YYYY

Certified copy of birth certificate, valid driver's license or valid passport.

* Number of First Person's Previous Marriages 0

Last Marriage Ended In Death Divorce Annulment Term SRDP N/A

Last Marriage Ended On (To the best of your knowledge) MM DD YYYY Required if a previous marriage

* Father's Full Name

* Father's State of Birth OTHER (if other)

* Mother's Full Maiden Name

* Mother's State of Birth OTHER (if other)

[Previous](#) [Next](#)

* denotes required information

Your Marriage Application

1. There are 3 items of interest here.

- The Marriage Application (Usually on a PC at their Office, or it can be done on-line at their web site).
- The Marriage License, in which he witnesses and Officiant sign, and the
- Certified Marriage Certificate.

2. Unfortunately, I cannot provide you with either of the 3 aforementioned items since this is actually a civil/governmental service. The couple must obtain their marriage application at any California County Recorder's Office of their choice within ninety days of the actual date of marriage.

3. Application fees are usually around \$75.00. The couple completes their application at the County Recorder's office and hand delivers it back to the Recorder, in which the Recorder take the information off of the Application and presents you with a Marriage License, which is good for 90 days.

4. Blood tests are no longer required.

5. In Sacramento County, there are 3 offices in which you can go to. For the main downtown Office, call the County Recorder Office for appointments at (916) 874-6131, or just go to 600 8th St. downtown (8th Street is one way north).

6. I shall take care of the signing of the license by the bride and groom's chosen witnesses right after the ceremony, often while photos are being taken. I will also have a professional keepsake Certificate of Marriage for the couple as well. If there is an additional Keepsake certificate given to the couple by the County Recorder, I will substitute that one for one of my own. You will also receive a copy of your Wedding Script Booklet.

7. Reverend Whitters will give the professional keepsake certificate to one of the witnesses or other designated person as soon as it is signed after the ceremony. If asked to do so, I will also mail, or deliver, the signed marriage license to the Office of the County Recorder of the county in which the license was issued. Prior to mailing, I will make 3 copies of the license. Two for your records and one my records. Please remember that there is an additional charge of approximately \$16.00 for a copy of the Certified Marriage Certificate issued by the County. Unfortunately, I am forbidden from receiving a Certified Marriage Certificate in your behalf. Some new California State Law is now in effect.

8. The Certified Marriage Certificate may be obtained after the original license is recorded by the County Recorder's office. This usually takes two to three weeks if done by mail. At

the same time that your marriage license was obtained, the county also gives you cost information and a form to send in to receive this certified copy by mail. Again, it is best to receive 3 or more copies of this recorded license directly at the Recorders Office. One for you to keep with your marriage package, one each for the parents, and keep one in a safe place for security. A safe deposit box or a home safe is great. You may also want one suitable for framing and hang it on a wall. Another one should be given to the minister for their records also. These are just suggestions.

Notes:

If you get them now, it might not cost you more in the future.

Another suggestion is to have one laminated by one of the local office supply store. It can also be reduced into a billfold size card.

Getting Married In California

1. Here's what you need to know to make the marriage legal in California.
2. In order to get married, you need to apply and receive a marriage license. The rules for acquiring your marriage license varies from state to state, so you should check with your city's marriage bureau at your clerk of court's office to find out what your local rules are.
3. You'll typically need to apply for your marriage license at least one month before your wedding ceremony. You'll traditionally need to send in your birth certificates, tax information, and other official documents. You don't, however, want to apply for your marriage license too early. In some states, the licenses do expire, if you don't get married within a few months.
4. When you apply for your license, you'll not only need a proof of identification and age, will need to provide any information about previous marriages, and will need to pay a nominal fee. The bride will need to know what her married name will be before she signs the marriage certificate. You'll have to write that name on the application.
5. And, believe it or not, just because you have your marriage license sent to you in the mail does not mean you are officially married. You need to have a justice of the peace or a religious clergyman sign the document. On your wedding day, you'll give your chaplain your marriage license, then after the ceremony, he'll sign it and send it to the proper government agency for validation.
6. Appointment Suggested: It is recommended that you call the County or City Clerk's office to see if they suggest setting an appointment. You could find yourselves in a long line with as much as a 2 hour wait without an appointment in some locales.
7. ID Requirement: Picture ID such as Driver's License or other valid identification. Some counties recommend bringing certified copies of your birth certificates. Know your parents names, mothers' maiden name and places of their birth.
8. Application Requirement: Both the bride and groom must appear in person at the time of applying.
9. Residency Requirement: Do not have to be a resident of California.
10. Waiting Period: No waiting period.
11. Previous Marriages: You must show proof of divorce, death or annulment. You need to bring a copy of your final divorce decree if you have divorced within the 90 days through past year (varies by county.)

12. Fees: \$70.00 or higher! Some counties will only accept cash.
13. Other Tests: No tests. NO BLOOD TEST IS REQUIRED.
14. Under 18: If either the bride or groom is under 18, at least one of the minor's parents, or legal guardian, must appear with the couple. Certified copies of birth certificates are required. The couple must also schedule an appointment with a counselor and then appear before a superior court judge.
15. Proxy Marriages: Yes, but only for overseas military.
16. Cousin Marriages: Yes.
17. Common Law Marriages: No.
18. Same Sex Marriages: YES! However, Domestic Partnerships are also available. One partner must live or work in that county and both must have photo ID.
19. Officiates: Any priest, minister, or rabbi of any religious denomination, of the age of 18 years or over may perform marriages. Ministers must complete the marriage license and return it to the county clerk within 10 days after the marriage.
20. Valid: The license is valid for 90 days. The license can only be used within the State of California.
21. Confidential License: A regular marriage license is a public record. A license and certificate of confidential marriage is only accessible by the husband, wife, or by decree signed by a superior court judge. At least one witness is required to observe the solemnization for a regular, public ceremony. No witnesses are required to observe a confidential marriage ceremony. A regular license may be used throughout the state. However, the confidential license may only be used in the county of issue. The confidential license costs normally \$10.00 higher than the regular license.
22. Solemnization Authority: Marriage may be solemnized by any of the following who is of the age of 18 years or older:
 - a. A Priest, minister, or rabbi of any religious denomination. **NOTE**: If you received your Ordination on-line, or your Ordination has an expiration date, you may come across some severe problems.
 - b. A judge or retired judge, commissioner of civil marriages or retired commissioner of civil marriages, commissioner or retired commissioner, or assistant commissioner of a court of record in this state.

- c. A judge or magistrate who has resigned from office.
- d. Any of the following judges or magistrates of the United States:
- (1). A justice or retired justice of the United States Supreme Court.
 - (2). A judge or retired judge of a court of appeals, a district court, or a court created by an act of Congress the Judges of which are entitled to hold office during good behavior.
 - (3). A judge or retired judge of a bankruptcy court or a tax court.
 - (4). A United States magistrate or retired magistrate.
 - (5). A legislator or constitutional officer of this state or a member of Congress who represents a district within this state, while that person holds office.

Marriage License Information

Proposition 8

The court has stayed entry of the judgment pending resolution of the Proposition 8 Proponents' motion for a stay pending appeal. Until the stay is lifted, the court's decision invalidating Proposition 8 does not go into effect and the County Clerk cannot issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

Marriage License Filing

▶ [Click here to download the 2010 Marriage license application in pdf format.](#)

Related Links

[How do I obtain a marriage license?](#)

[What are the differences between public and confidential marriage licenses?](#)

[How long is a marriage license good for?](#)

[What happens to the license after the ceremony?](#)

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How do we obtain a marriage license?

A license to be married may be purchased at your County Recorder's/Clerk's Office.

Both parties must appear together before the Clerk. An application form will be provided for you to complete. Blood tests are no longer required. Applicants must be unmarried and at least 18 years of age. Both must have a government issued valid picture ID that include full legal name and date of birth. If either party has been granted a dissolution within the last 12 months, a filed copy of the final judgment will be required. The license is issued at the time of appearance and is valid for 90 days.

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Payment:

Cash

Checks are not authorized for Marriage licenses and Ceremonies.

We offer Debit and Credit Card options pending authorization of the specific bank or card type however certain cards are not accepted or do not work with our system.

There is no waiting period in California between the issuance of the license and the ceremony. If you wish to be married in a civil ceremony in our office by our staff, an appointment is required and can be scheduled by calling the office at 925-335-7900.

If either party is a juvenile, or if a confidential license is needed, please call the office and speak to a staff member at 925-335-7900.

If the license has already been issued but has been altered, lost or destroyed, please call the office and speak to a staff member at 925-335-7900.

.....

Public License

Public record
License good for 90 days
License can be used throughout the state of California

Confidential License

Not available for public inspection
License good for 90 days
License can be used in the county where purchased only
Couple must take an oath stating that they reside together as husband and wife

How long is a marriage license good for?

The marriage license is good for 90 days from the date issued. If not used within 90 days, a new license must be obtained.

What happens to the license after the ceremony?

After the ceremony, the license is completed by the person performing the ceremony and is returned to the Recorder's office. It is required that the license be returned within 10 days after the ceremony. Once the license is received and if it is completed correctly, the license is recorded. At that time, you may purchase a certified copy of the license either by internet, telephone, mail or in person.

COUNTY RECORDER'S OFFICES

Recorder's Office



Hot Keys For All County Recorder's Offices

- ◇ [Amador County](#)
- ◇ [Contra Costa County](#)
- ◇ [El Dorado County](#)
- ◇ [Placer County](#)
- ◇ [Sacramento County](#)
- ◇ [Solano County](#)
- ◇ [Yolo County](#)
- ◇ [Yuba County](#)

County Recorder's Office Hot Buttons were last updated on 31 March 2013.

Amador County

In order to obtain a public marriage license, both parties must appear in person with current photo I.D. and the fee of \$65.00, in the form of a check, money order or cash, between the hours of 8am and 3:30pm Monday thru Friday. This license is valid for 90 days, meaning the marriage ceremony must be performed within 90 days.

If either party has a previous marriage that ended in dissolution/divorce or annulment within the last year a copy of the final judgment for dissolution/divorce or annulment must be provided at the time the license is purchased. If the dissolution/divorce or annulment was more than a year ago the exact date must be provided at the time the license is purchased.

If you have unusual circumstances or any additional questions please call us at 209-223-6468

What You Should Know About the Name Equality Act of 2007

The Name Equality Act of 2007 (AB 102, Chapter 567, Statutes of 2007) gives specific rights to parties at the time they are applying for a California marriage license to choose and list on the marriage license the new name that each party will go by after marriage.

The new law pertains to marriage licenses issued on or after 01/01/2009. It does not apply to marriage licenses issued prior to that date.

Parties are not required to have the same name, nor are they required to change their name.

If one or both of the parties want to have their new name(s) shown on the marriage license, the new name must be entered on the marriage license application at the time they are applying for the marriage license. The parties may choose any of the following middle or last names as the name they wish to be known as after marriage FC 306.5(b)(2)

- * Current last name of the other spouse
- * Last name of either spouse given at birth
- * A name combining into a single last name all or a segment of the current last name or last names of either spouse given at birth
- * A hyphenated combination of last names

** It is unlawful for our employees to answer questions of a legal nature. County Clerk staff cannot advise you how to complete the marriage license application as it relates to

your entry of a new name or retention of your former name on the marriage license application. For your protection, if you have any questions regarding whether you should or should not list your new name on the marriage license application, and/or how the Name Equality Act of 2007 may affect you, please consult an attorney prior to applying for your marriage license.

CONTACT INFORMATION	
Address:	810 Court Street Jackson, CA 95642
Phone:	(209) 223-6468
Business Hours:	Monday - Friday 8am to 5pm -Recorder 8am to 3:30pm -Clerk functions

Marriage Fees:

Marriage License (Family Code 350)	\$65.00
Issuing a Duplicate Marriage License and Certificate (Family Code 360)	\$20.00
Confidential Marriage License (Family Codes 501 or 502)	\$78.00
Issuing a Replacement Marriage Certificate pursuant (Family Code 510)	\$20.00
Performing a Marriage (Govt. Code 26861)	\$40.00
Appointment of Deputy Commissioner of Civil Marriages (Family Code 401)	\$50.00

Contra Costa County Clerk-Recorder



Marriage License Information

Mailing address for the Clerk's Office and the Recorder's Office:

P.O. Box 350
Martinez, CA. 94553

Street address for the Clerk's Office and the Recorder's Office:

555 Escobar St.
Martinez, CA 94553

Telephone Information:

Clerk Information: (925) 335-7900

Recorder Information: (925) 335-7910

Office Hours:

Recorder

8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday, including the noon hour.

Clerks / Copy Section

8:00 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday, including the noon hour.

County observed holidays are listed below:

- January 1 – New Year’s Day
 - 3rd Monday in January – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
 - 3rd Monday in February – Presidents’ Day
 - Last Monday in May – Memorial Day
 - July 4 – Independence Day
 - 1st Monday in September – Labor Day
 - November 11 – Veterans’ Day
 - 4th Thursday in November – Thanksgiving Day
 - 4th Friday in November – day after Thanksgiving
 - December 25 – Christmas Day
-

Directions

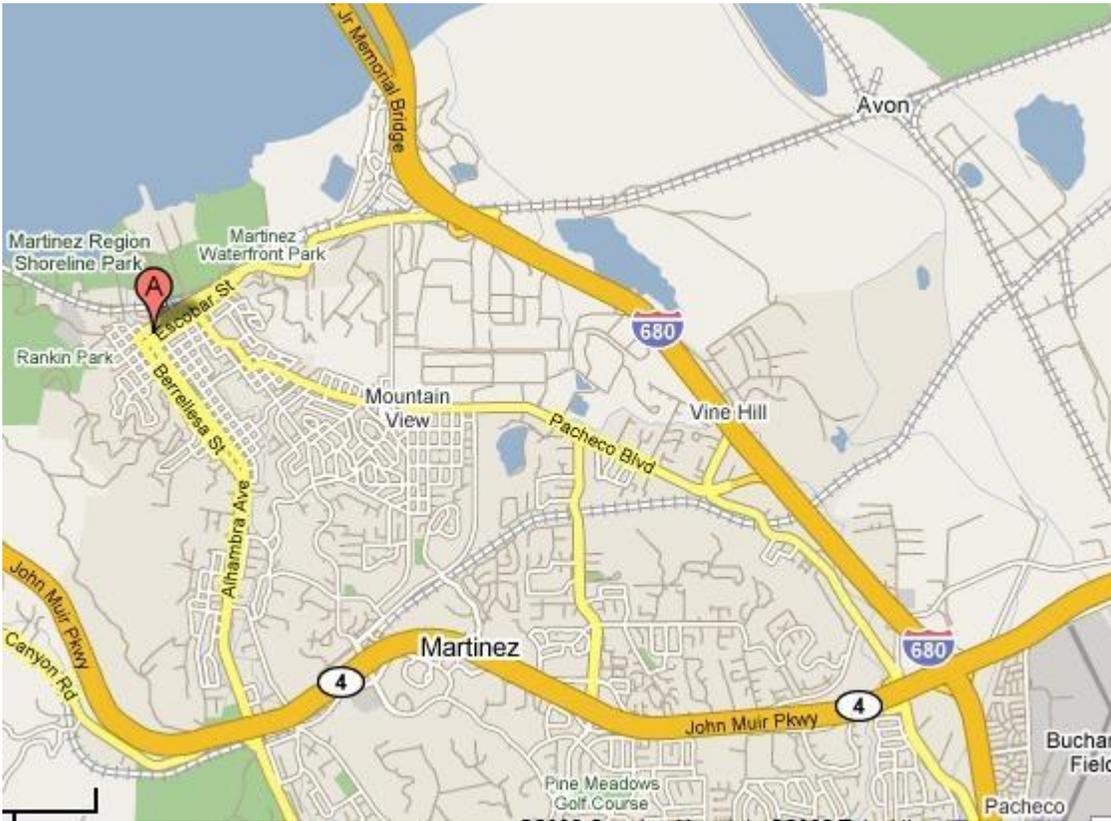
We are located at 555 Escobar Street in Martinez, California. Directions are as follows:

From Highway 4:

- Take the Alhambra Avenue off ramp.
- Head north on Alhambra approximately 3 miles.
- Turn right on Escobar Street and make a quick left into the parking lot.

From Interstate 680:

- Take the Marina Vista off ramp.
- Turn left onto Marina Vista and drive for approximately 1.5 miles.
- We are located directly across from the train station.



Marriage License Information

Regular Marriage License	\$85.00
Confidential Marriage License	\$90.00
Certified Copy of Marriage License	\$17.00
Declaration of Marriage	\$85.00
Duplicate Marriage License	\$20.00
Civil Marriage Ceremony	\$60.00

Apply for a Marriage License

The requirements to obtain a marriage license are as follows:

1. Both parties must appear together before the clerk.
2. Both parties must possess a valid government issued picture identification that includes the full legal name and date of birth.
3. Applicants must be unmarried and at least 18 years of age. If a minor is obtaining a marriage license, a certified copy of the court order will be required.

4. If either party has been granted marriage dissolution (divorce) within the last three (3) months, a certified copy of the final judgment is required.
5. The license issued at the time of appearance is valid for 90 days.
6. Blood tests are NOT required for a marriage license.
7. You do NOT have to be a California resident or citizen of the United States to be married in California.
8. Applicable fees – checks are NOT accepted.
9. There is no waiting period to receive your license. The license will be issued to you the day you come into the office if all of the above requirements are met.

Marriage Fees

Public Marriage License	\$86.00
Confidential Marriage License	\$90.00
Wedding Ceremony	\$60.00
Deputy Commissioner	\$50.00
Application for a Certified Copy of a Marriage License	\$19.00

El Dorado County Marriage License Information

Marriage License Issuance

Public and Confidential Marriage licenses and certificates are available at the Recorder-Clerk's office.

Public Marriage Licenses are issued between the hours of 8AM and 12 Noon and again between 3PM and 4:30 PM.

Both parties must be present to receive a license. The following links will give you more information on Marriage Licenses: [Fee Schedule](#) and [FAQ on Marriage License Issuance](#).

Note: Please notice that Marriage Licenses and Ceremonies are done by appointment. If you do not have an appointment, you may wait for an opening; however, it could be up to two hours if appointments are ahead of you so please inquire at the counter or call us:

Placerville: 530-621-5495

South Lake Tahoe: 530-573-3409

[Location and Hours](#)

Photo of Beautiful El Dorado County



Location & Hours



Recorder-Clerk, Placerville

360 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667
Phone: (530) 621-5490
FAX: (530) 621-2147

Toll Free From:

So. Lake Tahoe
(530) 573-7955 Ext. 3409

El Dorado Hills
(916) 358-3555 Ext. 5490

Hours:

8AM to 5PM each day.

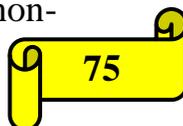
Recording of documents from 8AM to 4PM only.

Copy room closes at 4:30PM

Passports applications are not accepted after 4PM

Marriage Licenses and Ceremonies by appointment only

Marriage License Fees	Code	Fee
1. Issuing license and certificate of public marriage, declaration of marriage, and non-	G.C. 26840	\$60.00



	clergy marriage		
2.	Issuing license and certificate of confidential marriage	G.C. 26840.1	\$53.00
3.	Issuing duplicate/replacement license for marriage/confidential marriage	Fam.C. 36, Fam.C. 510	\$5.00
4.	Filing affidavit to amend confidential marriage certificate (one year or more after date of marriage) [includes certified copy]	H&S 103700	\$14.00
5.	Approval of notary public to authorize confidential marriages (effective one year)	Fam.C. 536	\$300.00
6.	Certifying a copy of, or searching for, a confidential marriage record	H&S 103625, 103640, 50 Fam.C. 509	\$14.00
7.	Civil Marriage Ceremony performed on County property during working hours		\$37.00

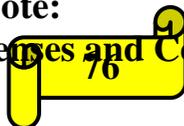
Marriage FAQs

Question – Do you provide Marriage Licenses?

Yes. The El Dorado County Recorder issues Marriage Licenses.

Note:

Please notice that **Marriage Licenses and Ceremonies** are done by



appointment. If you do not have an appointment, you may wait for an opening; however, it could be up to two hours if appointments are ahead of you. Please inquire at the counter or call us at 530-621-5495 for Placerville or 530-573-3407 for South Lake Tahoe.

Thank You

Fees:

\$60.00 – Issuing License and Certificate of Public Marriage, Declaration of Marriage, and Non-clergy Marriage, G.C. 26840

\$53.00 – Issuing License and Certificate of Confidential Marriage, G.C. 26840.1

Marriage Licenses:

A Marriage License issued in El Dorado County must be registered in El Dorado County. **Confidential Marriage** ceremonies MUST be performed in the County of Issuance. However, the ceremony for a Public Marriage License may be performed anywhere in the State of California.

Confidential Marriage ceremonies MUST be performed in the County of issuance. Registration is the responsibility of the person who officiates the marriage.

Certified Copies of ALL marriage licenses require a notarized application along with \$14.00 for each copy you purchase. Please visit our FORMS section to [download an Application](#). Please enclose a self addressed envelope for return.

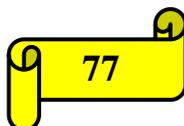
Please remember that the fee charged is a “search” fee. If we do not have a record of your marriage, the \$14 fee is retained and you will receive a certificate stating we found no record of your marriage.

El Dorado County Recorder-Clerk
360 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667
Phone: (530) 621 5490

[Email the Recorder-Clerk's Office](#)

Contact Us

[Email the Recorder-Clerk's Office](#)



William E. Schultz
Recorder-Clerk
530-621-5495

From the Quill to the Mouse



Jane Kohlstedt
Assistant
Recorder-Clerk
530-621-5490

Note: Please notice that Marriage Licenses and Ceremonies are done by appointment. If you do not have an appointment, you may wait for an opening; however, it could be up to two hours if appointments are ahead of you so please inquire at the counter or call us:

Placerville: 530-621-5495

South Lake Tahoe: 530-573-3409

[Location and Hours](#)



Photo of Beautiful El Dorado County



Napa County Recorder's Office, California

Assessor-Recorder-County Clerk

RECORDER: (707) 253-4105

CLERK: (707) 253-4247

FAX: (707) 259-8149

Marriage License & Ceremony

To be married in California you must obtain a marriage license prior to the marriage ceremony.

To get a license:

- parties (both over 18 years of age) **must appear in person** in our office at 2751 Napa Valley Corporate Drive, Building #4, Napa, CA 94558
- parties must have valid, government issued identification such as a driver's license or passport
- parties must provide all the information requested on the **Marriage License Application** including parents' full names and places of birth.
- If either party was married previously, the way the marriage ended (divorce, annulment, death, termination of state registered domestic partnership) and the date the marriage ended are required.

A public license can be obtained from any of California's 58 county clerks and once issued is valid for 90 days. The ceremony can be performed anywhere in the State of California. If either party is under the age of eighteen, a license cannot be issued without a court order. The [Name Equality Act of 2007](#) went into effect on 01/01/2009 and allows either or both parties to choose the name that each party will go by after the marriage.

Fee and payment

The fee for a regular license is **\$83.00**. It is suggested, but not required, that a certified copy also be paid for at the time the license is issued for an additional **\$15.00**. You can pay by check drawn on a California bank, cash, money order, travelers' check, and all major debit/credit cards. An additional **\$2.50** processing fee is charged by our vendor if a debit/credit card is used for payment.

Hours

Our office issues marriage licenses between 8:00 a.m. and 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. No appointment is needed to purchase a marriage license.

Ceremony

You can make an appointment to have your ceremony held in our office for a \$50 fee. We schedule our ceremonies between 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. and between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Call (707) 253-4247 to reserve a time for your ceremony.

If possible, we ask that the couple have at least one witness for the ceremony. If needed, our office can provide a witness for no charge. The room where ceremonies are held seats 14 people. Up to a maximum 20 guests can be accommodated if some guests stand.

Marriage Commissioner for the Day

It is possible to have a friend or relative deputized as a Deputy Marriage Commissioner for the Day, so he or she can perform your ceremony. The person must be over 18 years of age and must appear in person in our office at 2751 Napa Valley Corporate Drive, Building #4, Napa, to be deputized as a Deputy Marriage Commissioner. Once deputized, he or she can perform that one ceremony on that specific day for only that couple. Please complete the [Deputy Marriage Commissioner application](#) prior to coming to our office to be deputized. The fee is \$100. No appointment is needed to be deputized. We deputize between 8:00 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. We accept checks drawn on a California bank, cash, money orders, travelers' checks, and all major debit/credit. An additional \$2.50 processing fee is charged by our vendor if a debit/credit card is used for payment.

Nevada County Recorders Office

Recorder's Office

Marriage Licenses and Ceremonies

Information on marriage licenses and civil ceremonies.

How do we obtain a marriage license?

The Recorder's Office is located in the west wing, second floor of the Rood Center, 950 Maidu Avenue in Nevada City. Marriage licenses can be issued between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Come in at any time between those hours and we will assist you. [Map to the Rood Center](#).

Truckee: Nevada County's Health Department issues marriage licenses. [Map to the Truckee County offices](#). Hours are 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Applicants must make an appointment to apply for a marriage license: (530)582-7814.

Marriage ceremonies are available at the Clerk-Recorder's Office in Nevada City; they are not performed by the Health Department staff in Truckee.

Can we have our marriage ceremony performed in your office?

Yes. If you wish to have our staff perform your marriage ceremony, you may request an appointment **using our online form** or by calling our office at 530-265-1221. Although an appointment is not required, couples with appointments will be served before those walking in. Additional information is available on the online form page. The cost for our office performing the ceremony is \$40 . After the ceremony, you may purchase a certified copy of the marriage license for \$13.00.

Truckee:

Marriage ceremonies are not performed by the Health Department in Truckee. They are only available through the Clerk-Recorder's Office staff in Nevada City.

Do I need an appointment to get our marriage license?

We do not make appointments for marriage licenses. Simply come into our offices when you are ready. Since it takes some time for us to process your paperwork, we ask that you be here no later than 3:30 PM.

Truckee:

Applicants must make an appointment to apply for a marriage license: (530) 582-7814.

What do I need to get a marriage license?

If you are obtaining a **PUBLIC** marriage license and you are over 18 years of age, you simply need photo identification. Both parties to the marriage must be present when obtaining a public marriage license. If either of the parties to the marriage are under 18 years of age, please contact the Probation office at (530) 265-1300 for further information.

If you are obtaining a **CONFIDENTIAL** marriage license, you must be over 18 years of age and you simply need photo identification. Both parties to the marriage must also be present when obtaining a confidential marriage license.

- MARRIAGE LICENSE TYPES -

PUBLIC LICENSE

Public record

License good for 90 days

License can be used throughout the state of California

Current fee is \$72.00

CONFIDENTIAL LICENSE

Not available for public inspection

License good for 90 days

License can only be used in the county where purchased

Current fee is \$74.00

Couple must have lived together

Application for a Marriage License -- General instructions

Download and print the form, complete and bring with you to our offices. All data must be completed.

- **Application for a Public Marriage License**
 - **Application for a Confidential Marriage License**
-

How long is a marriage license good for?

The marriage license is only good for 90 days from the date issued. If not used within 90 days, a new license must be obtained.

What happens to the license after the ceremony?

After the ceremony, the license is completed by the person performing the ceremony and is returned to our office. It is required that the license be returned within 10 days after the

ceremony. Once we receive the license and it is correct, we register the license. At that time, you may purchase a copy of the license either by telephone, mail or in person. The cost of the certified copy of the license is currently \$13.00 if paid in person, \$16 if by mail or \$16 plus \$6 credit card fee if by phone.

Can we have our marriage ceremony performed by a Judge in the Courthouse?

Yes. A Judge can perform a marriage ceremony at the Courthouse, Monday through Friday by appointment only. Call (530) 265-1751 for an appointment.

Please feel free to give us a call with any further questions you may have regarding your marriage license or in-house ceremony.

Nevada County Clerk-Recorder's Office

950 Maidu Ave, 2nd floor

Nevada City, CA 95959

(530) 265-1221

Placer County Marriage License Information

Marriage Licenses

Jim McCauley, County Clerk-Recorder-Registrar of Voters

Clerk-Recorder Division

2954 Richardson Drive

Auburn, CA 95603

(530) 886-5610

Fax: (530) 886-5687

E-mail: clerk@placer.ca.gov



Effective January 1, 2009, The Name Equality Act of 2007 (AB 102, Chapter 567, Statutes of 2007) gives specific rights to parties who are applying for their California marriage license, to choose and list on the marriage license, the new name(s) that each party will go by after marriage ([Family Code 306.5](#)) This new law only pertains to marriage licenses issued on or after January 1, 2009 and does not apply to marriage licenses issued prior to that date.

NOTE: Parties are not required to have the same name, nor are they required to change their name. If one or both of the parties want to have their new name(s) shown on their marriage license, the new name must be entered on the marriage license application at the time they are applying for their marriage license. The name you indicate on your marriage license application will be your name on the marriage license certificate and cannot be changed by the County Clerk. If you do not indicate a new name on your marriage license, a court order might be required to do a name change.

For more information please visit [The Office of Vital Records](#)

The following is information regarding: public marriage licenses and confidential marriage licenses; who may solemnize a marriage; miscellaneous information; and frequently asked questions.

As of, November 5, 2008, Placer County suspended the issuance of marriage licenses and the performance of marriage ceremonies for same sex couples. This is being done in response to the current results posted for Proposition 8 on the [Secretary of State website](#), and responding to the direction given by the offices of the Governor and the Attorney General for the State of California

There are two types of marriage licenses a couple may apply for: [Public](#) and [Confidential](#). Both types of marriage licenses are valid for 90 days from the date they are issued. The Public Marriage license can be used anywhere in the state of California. The Confidential Marriage license must be used in the county where it was purchased. You must present the license to the person who is to perform the marriage ceremony. After

the ceremony is performed, it is their responsibility to complete the license and to return it to the County Clerk for filing within 10 days after the ceremony.

Applying for a Public or a Confidential Marriage License

[Marriage License Application](#)

Parties to be married must do the following to apply for a marriage license:

1. Apply together and apply in person.
2. Present a government issued picture identification, such as a driver's license, passport or military ID.
3. Provide full names, including mother's maiden names, and state or country of birth for parents.
4. If previously married or in a State Registered Domestic Partnership, provide the date of dissolution, death or termination.

If Purchasing a Confidential Marriage License, the three additional requirements also apply:

1. Both applicants must be over 18 years of age.
2. Currently living together.
3. Being married in the county where the license was purchased.

Who May Solemnize Marriages per Family Code §401?

Marriage may be solemnized by any priest, minister, or rabbi of any religious denomination, a judge or retired judge, commissioner or retired commissioner, or assistant commissioner of a court of record, a judge or magistrate who has resigned from office, or by a person authorized to do so under Family Code Section §401.

Family Code Section §401

For each county, the county clerk is designated as a commissioner of civil marriages. The commissioner of civil marriages may appoint deputy commissioners of civil marriages who may solemnize marriages under the direction of the commissioner.

Civil Marriage Ceremonies

On a limited basis, ceremonies are performed through the Clerk-Recorders Office, Monday through Friday by appointment only. Please call at least 24 hours in advance for scheduling the appointment.

Miscellaneous Information

1. Minors, emancipated minors included, cannot be licensed to marry in California without a parent's written consent and a Superior Court Order, and cannot purchase a *Confidential* Marriage license. Please call for more information.
2. There are no residency requirements for the parties to be married, or witnesses to the ceremony.
3. The *Public* marriage license can be used anywhere in the state of California. The *Confidential* marriage license can only be used in the county it was issued in.
4. One witness is required on the *Public* marriage license. Two are also acceptable. No witnesses are necessary for the *Confidential* marriage license.
5. The *Public* license is a public record and available for anyone's inspection. It may be published in a local newspaper.

The *Confidential* marriage license is not a public record, and a certified copy can only be purchased by the parties of the marriage without a court order.

6. Certified copies are available at the Recorder's Office for a fee of \$13.00 for a *Public* license and \$18.00 for a *Confidential*.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How far ahead of time do we need to get our Marriage License?

A: The license is valid the same day it is issued and usable for up to ninety (90) days.

Q: Do we need a blood test?

A: No. As of January 1, 1995, blood tests are no longer necessary.

Q: How much does it cost?

A: \$56.00 for a Public Marriage License. \$60.00 for a Confidential Marriage License. Please see [Fee Schedule](#) for more information.

Q: Where do we go to get the License?

A: To the County Clerk-Recorder's Office, 2954 Richardson Drive, Auburn.

Q: Do we get a copy of the license?

A: No. You may purchase a certified copy at the Recorder's office for a fee of \$13.00 for a public and \$18.00 for a confidential.

Placer County Marriage Fees

MARRIAGE	
Issuing a marriage license	56.00
Issuing a confidential license	60.00
Issuing a duplicate license	28.00
Civil ceremony in our office	40.00
Deputy marriage ceremony	40.00
WEDDING SERVICES	
Wedding Ceremony on DVD	49.50
Each Additional DVD	18.50
Wedding Photo	6.50
Each Additional Wedding Photo	3.50
Vows Keepsake	6.00
Wedding Keepsake	6.00
These Wedding Services are subject to sales tax of 8.25%	

Sacramento County Marriage License Information

(Taken directly off their web site at: <http://www.ccr.saccounty.net/MARFAQ.asp>)

Contact us for more information about County Clerk/Recorder services including: recording documents, birth certificates, death certificates, marriage licenses and certificates, preliminary 20-day notices, and professional registrations.

In Person

Downtown Sacramento

600 8th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 874-6334

(Limited on-street parking only - bring quarters)



County Service Center, East

5229 Hazel Avenue, Suite B
Fair Oaks, CA 95628
(916) 874-6334



(Abundant Parking Spaces)

County Service Center, South
8239 E. Stockton Boulevard, Suite A
(Behind the SAM'S Club)
Sacramento, CA 95828
(916) 874-6334



(Approximately 10 parking spaces, normally all empty)

From Highway 99 North: Take the Calvine exit and make a right hand turn onto Calvine going East. Turn left on Power Inn – Towards SAMS. Just past SAMS's Club turn Left



onto Stockton Blvd. The first sign below will be on your right hand side Turn into the driveway in front of the sign and go all the way to the end of the driveway. The Recorder's Office will be on your right.

From Highway 99 South: Take the Mack Road Exit East. Turn into the "U" shaped exit and enter Mack Road. (You have to move into the next lane to your left, or you'll exit again). Turn Right at the next exit which is Stockton Blvd. Go past Office Depot, Wendy's, COSTCO and CarMax. As you turn the bend to your left, you'll see the first sign on your Left. Turn into the driveway in back of the sign and go all the way to the end of the driveway. The Recorder's Office will be on your right.



By Mail

Sacramento County Clerk/Recorder
P.O. Box 839
Sacramento, CA 95812-0839

By Telephone

General Information
(916) 874-6334

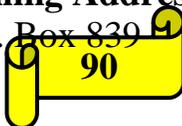
Toll Free outside the 916 area code but within California
(800) 313-7133

Hearing Impaired
1-800-735-2929 (TDD/TTY) or 711 for California Relay Service

Hours and Services Downtown Sacramento

Physical Address
600 8th Street

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 839



Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 874-6334
(800) 313-7133 within California

Sacramento, CA 95812-0839

At the corner of 8th and F Streets; metered street parking available.

Regular Hours

Monday – Friday

8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Closed on Saturday, Sunday and [holidays](#)

Extended Hours for Listed Services

Thursday evenings

5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

- **Birth, death and marriage certified copies**
- **Marriage license applications (by [appointment](#) only)**
- **Marriage ceremonies (by [appointment](#) only)**

Same-day Document Recording Hours

Monday – Friday

8:00 am – 3:00 pm

Documents presented Monday through Friday, before 3:00 p.m. will be recorded the same business day.

Hours and Services Fair Oaks

Physical Address

5229-B Hazel Avenue

Fair Oaks, CA 95628

(916) 874-6334

(800) 313-7133 within California

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 839

Sacramento, CA 95812-0839

In the Raley's shopping center, corner of Madison and Hazel Avenues.

Regular Hours for Listed Services

Monday – Friday

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Closed on Saturday, Sunday and [holidays](#)

- **Birth, death and marriage certified copies**
- **Document acceptance for recording within three (3) business days**
- **Marriage license applications**
- **Marriage ceremonies**

- **Official record viewing and copies**
- **Professional registrations (notaries public)**

Welcome to Sacramento County's Online Marriage Appointment Calendar

General Information

Scheduling an appointment will eliminate wait time, as walk-ins may wait as long as 2 hours. The average appointment lasts approximately 30 minutes. Marriage licenses are issued on the day of your appointment and are valid for 90 days. If not used within 90 days, a new license must be purchased.

Inmate Marriage Appointments

There are specific procedures for inmate marriages. If you are scheduling an appointment for a Represa or county jail marriage license, you must call the Marriage Unit at (916) 874-6131 for additional information.

Appointment Times

Appointments may be scheduled for Monday through Friday (excluding [holidays](#)) within the times listed for each of our locations. Thursday evening appointments are available for a slightly higher fee at our Downtown location. Appointments are required for Thursday evening appointments.

Downtown Sacramento 600 - 8th Street Sacramento, CA 95814	
<u>Day</u>	<u>Hours of Operation</u>
Monday	8:00 am to 4:20 pm
Tuesday	8:00 am to 4:20 pm
Wednesday	8:00 am to 4:20 pm
Thursday	8:00 am to 7:20 pm
Friday	8:00 am to 4:20 pm

East Area Community Service Center 5229-B Hazel Avenue Fair Oaks, CA 95628	
<u>Day</u>	<u>Hours of Operation</u>
Monday	9:00 am to 3:20 pm
Tuesday	9:00 am to 3:20 pm
Wednesday	9:00 am to 3:20 pm
Thursday	9:00 am to 3:20 pm
Friday	9:00 am to 3:20 pm

Changing a name *after the marriage is solemnized* will require the couple go to court to get a name change (a lengthy and expensive process).



The marriage certificate is used by multiple local, state, federal and private agencies, all of whom have different rules and regulations regarding what documents are acceptable to change a name on their records following a marriage. Couples may want to contact these agencies to verify their requirements prior to applying for their marriage license.

We urge you to review the [Name Equality Act Pamphlet](#) before completing the marriage license application.

One-Time Deputy Marriage Commissioner

Couples with a valid marriage license may choose to have a friend or relative deputized to perform their marriage ceremony within the state of California.

To make arrangements to have someone deputized as a "One-Time Deputy Marriage Commissioner" to perform a single, specifically designated ceremony, complete the [application form](#) in its entirety and return it to our office. The return address and fax number are on the form itself.

The person to be deputized must be at least 18 years old and a U.S. citizen. At least one person on the application form must reside in Sacramento County, California.

Once the application is received, a staff member will contact you to schedule an appointment to appear in our office and be deputized. A fee of \$43.00 is due at the time of the appointment.

For additional information, contact us.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

How do we get a marriage license?

The couple must appear together in person at our office to purchase the marriage license. We recommend making an appointment to obtain your license. An appointment saves time by ensuring you'll be assisted promptly when you come to our office, as walk-ins may wait as long as 2 hours.

How do I make an appointment to get a marriage license?

Schedule an appointment online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, through our [Online](#)



[Appointment Calendar](#), or call our office between 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday (excluding holidays) at (916) 874-6131.

How long does it take to get a marriage license?

Marriage licenses are issued on the day of your appointment. The average appointment lasts approximately 30 minutes. To save time, we recommend you complete the application before your visit.

Where can I get the marriage license application?

The marriage license application may be completed in our office or online at [Marriage License Application](#). The online application will take about 10 minutes to complete. Be sure to click

"Submit" on the final page of the application. A confirmation message will then display to inform that "You have successfully completed your Online Marriage Application."

How long is a marriage license valid?

The marriage license is only valid for 90 days from the date issued. If not used within 90 days, a new license must be obtained.

What happens to the license after the ceremony?

After the ceremony, the license is completed by the person performing the ceremony and is returned to our office. It is required that the license be returned within 10 days after the ceremony. Once we receive the license and it is correct, we register the license. At that time, you may [purchase a copy](#) of the license either by mail, online, or in person. The cost of a certified copy of the license is \$14.00.

Can someone from your office come to our location and perform our ceremony?

Yes, by calling (916) 874-6131, we can provide a Deputy Commissioner of Civil Marriages to you to perform your ceremony, if the ceremony is held in Sacramento County on weekends or holidays only.

Can we have our marriage ceremony performed in your office?

When you call our office or use the [Online Appointment Calendar](#) to make an appointment for a marriage license you may also make an appointment to have a marriage ceremony performed. The cost of a marriage ceremony performed in our office is \$35.00. If our office provides the witness for the marriage ceremony, there is an additional cost of \$28.00. After The ceremony, you may purchase a certified copy of the marriage license for \$14.00.

Can a friend or relative perform our marriage ceremony?

Yes. For more information, refer to [One-Time Deputy Marriage Commissioner](#).

What is a non-denominational marriage license?

A non-denominational marriage license is a public marriage license offered exclusively to religious societies that do not have an ordained person who performs religious services, such as a priest, rabbi or minister, designated to perform marriage ceremonies.

San Joaquin County Marriage License Information

Recorder/County Clerk Office

44 North San Joaquin Street
Second Floor Suite 260
Stockton, CA 95202
Phone: (209) 468-3939
Fax: (209) 468-8040

Marriage Licenses

Requirements

No blood tests are required

- One does **not** have to be a California resident to marry in California
- There is no waiting period between receipt of a marriage license and the ceremony
- No particular format for a marriage ceremony is required
- First cousins may marry in California
- Only unmarried persons may purchase a license to marry in California
- If in a State Registered Domestic Partnership and marriage will be to someone other than the registered domestic partner, the domestic partnership must first be terminated.
- "Common-Law" marriage and marriage by "Proxy" are **not** allowed in California

License Fees

- Public Marriage: \$65.00
- Confidential Marriage: \$73.00

Public Marriages

- Minimum age is 18 years. Persons under 18 years of age with written consent of at least one parent (or guardian) **AND** permission from a California Superior Court may marry.
- Marriage License is required. The public marriage license may be purchased from any County Clerk's office in California. The license is valid for 90 days from the date of issue.
- Marriage may be solemnized by any judge or retired judge; commissioner or retired commissioner of civil marriages; commissioner, retired commissioner, or assistant commissioner of a court of record or a justice court in this state; by any judge or magistrate of the United States; by a priest, minister, or rabbi of any religious

denomination of the age 18 years or over.* A marriage may also be solemnized by a judge or magistrate who has resigned from office.

- One witness is required.
- Anyone may purchase from the County Clerk in the county in which the license was issued a certified copy of the marriage certificate. The cost is \$15.00 as of January 2014, and is subject to change.
- Marriage can take place in any California county even if the license is purchased in San Joaquin County.
- **If either party was divorced or terminated a State Registered Domestic Partnership within the last year, a divorce or domestic partnership termination certificate must be presented when applying for a license.**
- To purchase a license, both parties must come in together with valid identifications.

Confidential Marriages

- Minimum age is 18 years. Minors **may not** purchase a confidential marriage license.
- Marriage License is required. The confidential marriage license **must** be purchased from the County Clerk's office in the county in which the ceremony is to take place. The license is valid for 90 days from the date of issue.
- Marriage may be solemnized by any judge or retired judge; commissioner or retired commissioner of civil marriages; commissioner, retired commissioner or assistant commissioner of a court of record or a justice court in this state; by any judge or magistrate of the United States; by a priest, minister, or rabbi of any religious denomination of the age 18 years or over.* A marriage may also be solemnized by a judge or magistrate who has resigned from office.
- No witnesses are required.
- Only the parties to the marriage may purchase copies of the marriage certificate from the County Clerk in the county in which the license was issued. The cost is \$15.00 as of January 2014, and **the fee is subject to change.**
- Marriage **must** take place in the county in which the license was purchased.
- **If either party was divorced or terminated a State Registered Domestic Partnership within the last year, a divorce or domestic partnership termination certificate must be presented when applying for a license.**
- To purchase a license, both parties must come in together with valid identifications.

* Members of a religious society or denomination not having clergy for the purpose of solemnizing the marriage must purchase a "License and Certificate of Marriage for Denominations Not Having Clergy" (VS 115)

NOTE: Applicants for a confidential marriage license must sign a statement attesting to the fact that they have been living together as spouses. The law does not specify a minimum duration of time living together.

Contact Us

Office Hours:

General Office Hours: 8:00 – 4:30
Document Recording: 8:00 – 4:00
County Clerk: 8:00 – 4:00
(Marriage Licenses, Document Filing)
Vital Statistics: 8:00 – 4:15
(Copies of Birth/Death/Marriage Certificates)
Copies of Recorded Documents: 8:00 – 4:30

Mailing Address:

San Joaquin County Recorder
P.O. Box 1968
Stockton, CA 95201

For a complete schedule of fees in PDF format Click [Here](#).

E-Mail

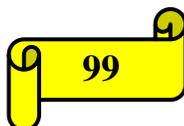
recorder@sjgov.org

Telephone

(209) 468-3939

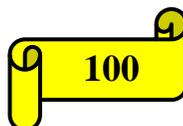
FAX

(209) 468-8040



FEE SCHEDULE

Public License GC26840,H&S100435,GC26840.3, GC54985 W&I18305,GC26840.7 Cnty R-04-365	\$65.00
Confidential License GC26840,H&S100435,GC26840.3, GC54985 W&I18305,GC26840.8 Cnty R-04-365	\$73.00
Amendment of Marriage License	\$23.00
Issue duplicate/replacement license for marriage FC510, FC360,Cnty R-04-365	\$16.00
Deputy Commissioner – Civil Marriage GC54985a, County R-04-365	\$46.00
Civil Marriage Ceremony	\$75.00
Reschedule Civil Marriage Ceremony	\$25.00
Civil Marriage Witness Fee	\$20.00



Solano County Marriage License Information

PLEASE NOTE: This is accurate as of 1 September 2016. Please, I am not responsible for errors on this page, and I am not their mind reader. Solano County continues to change prices and regulations without notification or updates on their web pages.

General Information

Department Functions

- Issue marriage licenses
- Register and index non court related documents
- File fictitious business names
- Register Professional Photo Copiers

Location & Hours

County Clerk
675 Texas Street, Suite 1900
Fairfield, California 94533

Hours of operation: 8:00 - 4:00 P.M. Monday - Friday

Phone (707) 784-7510

[Email](#)

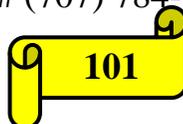
Marriage Licenses:

Obtaining a Marriage License

Information on two types of marriage licenses is available on this site. Please review carefully the information provided to determine which type of license is best suited to your particular situation.

Marriage Licenses are issued from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (excluding holidays) at the:

County Clerk
675 Texas Street **Suite 1900**
Fairfield, California 94533
Phone # (707) 784-7510



Please allow 15 to 30 minutes to issue a marriage license, however you may have to wait longer if there are other couples ahead of you. We ask that you arrive at the office in plenty of time to complete the paperwork prior to 4:00 p.m.

Requirements for Public Marriage License

- Complete The [Public Marriage License Application](#).
- Pay the application fee (See the “Schedule Of Fees” below).
- Both applicants must be at least 18 years of age.
- **Both applicants must be present when the license is issued.**
- Both applicants must possess a valid picture identification, which includes date of birth.
- Both applicants must include on the application, the full name (including middle and mothers maiden name) of both parents.
- Both applicants must include the State or Country of birth for both parents
- If either or both applicants were divorced, or had an annulment that was final within the last 6 months, a copy of the final judgment is required.

Public licenses are effective the day of issue and for 90 days thereafter, they can be used anywhere in the State of California

The State of California does not require a blood test to obtain a marriage license

Requirements for Confidential Marriage License

- Complete the [Confidential Marriage License Application](#).
- Pay the application fee (See the “Schedule Of Fees” below).
- Both applicants must be at least 18 years of age. Underage applicants are not allowed to obtain a confidential license.
- **Both applicants must be present when the license is issued.**
- Couple must be living together as spouses at the time they apply for the license
- Marriage ceremony must be performed in County in which the license is issued (I.E. if you purchase a confidential license in Solano County you ceremony must be performed in Solano County)
- Both applicants must possess a valid picture identification, which includes date of birth.
- Both applicants must include on the application, the full name (including middle and mothers maiden name) of both parents.
- Both applicants must include the State or Country of birth for both parents
- If either or both applicants were divorced, or had an annulment that was final within the last 6 months, a copy of the final judgment is required.

Confidential licenses are effective the day of issue and for 90 days thereafter, they can be used only in the County in which they are issued.

The State of California does not require a blood test to obtain a marriage license

PLEASE NOTE: Confidential marriage licenses are held confidential and may not be viewed by the public. The only information, which may be released by the County Clerk upon inquiry, is whether there is a record of marriage; the DATE may not be released without a court order (Section 511 of Family Code). Certified copies of the marriage license can only be obtained in person by either spouse with valid picture I.D. and [Application for Certified Copy](#) or by mail with an [Application for Certified Copy](#) with "Certificate of Acknowledgement" section completed by a notary.

Marriage Licenses For Underage Applicants

If either or both applicants are under the age of 18, one or both parents of the minors' will have to give permission and appear before a Superior Court judge before the couple can obtain a marriage license. Please contact our office for further information at (707) 784-7510 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Submitting A Completed Marriage License

When the Reverend has signed the Marriage License and with at least one or two witnesses, you can take the completed license back to the County Recorder's Office. But this time, you must go to room 2700, on the second floor. This will be for delivery only!

They have NO one day service!

For some obnoxious reason, the Solano County Recorder's Office only files the licenses on Wednesdays. Example: If you take your license in on a Monday, it will be available for pickup around the following Monday.

By Mail: Solano County will NOT accept prepayment for a Certified Marriage Certificate to be sent to you. The only way you can accept a "By Mail" is by asking for a Form "Marriage Certificate By Mail". You fill out the form in front of your own Notary Public, and send it in with a check for the proper amount. But you still have to wait a week or so, after your marriage to submit the form. They are EXTREAMLY slow.

After delivery of your license, you may also wait for a week or so, and go back to the same office and fill out a "Request For A Certified Marriage Certificate". At that time, they will process your request, take more of your money, and present you with your Certified Marriage Certificate.

If you have any questions on this matter, please call me at: (916) 214-3980 or send me an [E-mail](#). Otherwise, you can also contact their Office.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR-COUNTY CLERK 2016-2017

FEE SCHEDULE

THE FOLLOWING FEES WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016

Marriage License (Public)	\$ 90.00
Marriage License (Confidential).....	\$ 100.00
Declared Marriage License	\$ 90.00
Duplicate Marriage License.....	\$ 32.00
After Hours Marriage License Fee	\$ 60.00
Marriage Ceremony	\$ 50.00
Marriage Ceremony Witness	\$ 27.00
Certified Copy of Confidential Marriage License	\$ 16.00
Fictitious Business Name Statements	\$ 50.00
FBNS Each Additional Name.....	\$ 7.00
FBNS Abandonment/Withdrawal.....	\$ 40.00
FBNS Certified Copy Fee.....	\$ 11.00
FBNS Weekly Report	\$ 24.00
Power of Attorney.....	\$ 33.00
Process Server Registration	\$ 110.00
Professional Photo Copier Registration.....	\$ 175.00
Unlawful Detainer Assistant Registration.....	\$ 182.00
Legal Document Assistant Registration	\$ 182.00
Notary Filing.....	\$ 40.00
Verification of Notary.....	\$ 15.00
Certification of Documents.....	\$ 11.00
Translation Certification	\$ 24.00
Research & Searching Records per ¼ hour	\$ 22.00
Returned Check Fee.....	\$ 35.00

Yolo County Recorder's Office



Yolo Clerk-Recorder

Marriage Licenses and Civil Ceremonies

On Monday August 17, 2010 the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals issued a ruling imposing a stay on enforcement of the ruling on the unconstitutionality of Proposition 8 from August 4, 2010. Upon consultation with Yolo County Counsel, the Yolo County Clerk Recorder will comply with the orders of the court, and continue with normal business operations in compliance with current laws in effect.

In the on-going effort to maintain costs and services, the Yolo County Clerk-Recorder asks that all documents requests to be mailed to the customer include a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope. In Lieu of the Self Addressed Stamped Envelope the customer may elect to pay \$1.00 for return postage which will be added to the document fee total.

Fees:

Item	Fee
Regular Marriage License	\$97.00
Confidential Marriage License	\$109.00
Duplicate Marriage Certificate	\$25.00
Marriage Ceremony	\$93.00
Search for Marriage License	\$14.00
Marriage Room Usage	\$93.00
Civil Marriage Commissioner - For a Day	\$109.00
Marriage Witness Fee for Wedding Ceremony	\$32.00

Regular and confidential marriage licenses are issued by the Clerk/Recorder's office.

No appointment is needed to apply for a license. Both parties must appear together and present authentic photo identification.

Civil wedding ceremonies are performed in our office by appointment only. Since our wedding schedule fills up fast, you should make your appointment as soon as

possible. You will need to bring at least one witness. Call 530-666-8130 to make your appointment.

Regular Licenses:

To obtain a regular marriage license, both parties must be 18 years or older, appear in person at our office and present authentic photo identification.

There are no blood tests or residency requirements.

The license is valid for 90 days, during which time the ceremony must take place. The ceremony license may be performed anywhere in the State of California.

Minors, under the age of 18, must obtain an order from the Superior Court prior to applying for a license. For information from the court, call (530) 406-6704. After obtaining a court order the minors must appear at the county clerk's office.

When applying for a Marriage License each individual will have to provide the following information:

- Father's Full Birth Name
- Father's State or Foreign Country of Birth
- Mother's Full Birth Name
- Mother's State or Foreign Country of Birth
- How an individual's previous marriage ended and the marriage end date (if applicable)
- The name each individual will take after the ceremony. Click to see the information on allowable new names. [Name Equality Act of 2007](#)

Confidential Licenses

A confidential marriage license differs from a regular marriage license in that it is not available for public inspection. Only the applicants may obtain a certified copy of their marriage license.

To obtain a confidential marriage license, both parties must be 18 years or older, appear together in person at our office, present authentic photo identification, and take an oath indicating they have been living together.

The license is valid for 90 days, during which time a ceremony must be performed. The ceremony may only be performed in the county where the license was issued.

Although confidential marriages are not public documents, anyone may request the county clerk to perform a search of the confidential marriage indices, for the purpose of confirming the existence or non-existence of a marriage.

The date of the marriage and other information in the certificate shall not be disclosed except upon order of the court (Family Code, Sec 511).

When applying for a Marriage License each individual will have to provide the following information:

- Father's Full Birth Name
- Father's State or Foreign Country of Birth
- Mother's Full Birth Name
- Mother's State or Foreign Country of Birth
- How an individual's previous marriage ended and the marriage end date (if applicable)
- The name each individual will take after the ceremony. Click to see the information on allowable new names. [Name Equality Act of 2007](#)

General Information

Persons under 18 years of age, emancipated minors included, cannot be licensed to marry in California without a Superior Court order.

If you are recently divorced and it has been 6 months or less, you are required by our office to present a certified copy of the divorce decree for verification that the marriage has been legally dissolved.

The marriage license will be void if there are any alterations, erasures, strikeouts, or correction fluids on the document.

No particular form for the ceremony of marriage is required, except that the parties shall declare, in the presence of the person solemnizing the marriage and necessary witnesses, that they take each other as lawful spouses.

There are no state residency or blood test requirements.

Civil wedding ceremonies are performed in our office by appointment only. Since our wedding schedule fills up fast, you should make your appointment as soon as possible. You will need to bring at least one witness.

A regular marriage license is a public record and available for anyone's inspection. The licenses may be published, and certified copies are available for a fee.

The County Clerk may conduct a search for a confidential marriage certificate for the purpose of confirming the existence of a marriage, but the date of the marriage and any other information contained in the certificate shall not be disclosed except upon order of the court.

Marriage Steps

Steps 1 through 3 below must be completed in the proper order for a valid marriage.

1. Obtain a marriage license:

For regular and confidential marriage licenses, both parties must appear together, show authentic photo identification, give information, and take an oath at the County Clerk/Recorder office. A regular marriage license may be used in any county in California. A confidential marriage license may only be used in the county of issue.

2. Solemnize the Marriage (The Ceremony):

The license must then be used within 90 days of issuance. One witness is required on the regular license. The person solemnizing the marriage will endorse the license as required.

3. Authenticate the Marriage:

No later than 10 days after the ceremony, The person solemnizing the marriage shall return the marriage license (endorsed as required)to the county recorder of the county where the license was issued, not later than 10 days after the ceremony, for registration.

4. Optional:

If a party wishes to change their name with social security, they will need to complete an application. Applications can be obtained from www.socialsecurity.gov or the address below. The application must be submitted with a certified copy of the marriage certificate by mail or in person to:

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
825 Riverside Parkway, Suite 1000
West Sacramento, CA 95605
916-373-3850
800-772-1213

Who May Solemnize Marriages:

Marriage may be solemnized by any of the following who is of the age of 18 years or older:

- A priest, minister, rabbi or authorized person of any religious denomination.
- A judge or retired judge, commissioner or retired commissioner, or assistant commissioner of a court of record in this state.
- A judge or magistrate state who has resigned from office.
- A justice or retired justice of the United States Supreme Court.
- A judge or retired judge of a court of appeals, a district court, or a court created by an act of Congress the judges of which are entitled to hold office during good behavior.
- A judge or retired judge of a bankruptcy court or a tax court.
- A United States magistrate or retired magistrate.
- A legislator or constitutional officer of this state or a member of Congress who represents a district within this state, while the person holds office.
- Commissioner of civil marriages or retired commissioner of civil marriages. For each county, the county clerk is designated as commissioner of civil marriages.
- Deputy marriage commissioner for the day is available from the county clerk to individuals to have the legal right to marry a specific couple on a specific day.

The following persons, outside of the clerk/recorder office, may perform ceremonies:

- Judge Walden 530 662-4636
- Virginia Nichols 530 662-5374
- Myrtle Zentner 530 796-4774
- Mark Faye 530 735-6412
- Lupe Ramirez 530 668-4923 (English/Spanish)
- Ava Woodard 530 666-3006
- Leigh Fagel 530 383-4487 (English/Tagalog)

Commissioner of Civil Marriages for a Day

Family Code, Section 401(a), designates the county clerk as the commissioner of civil marriages for the county. This commissioner may appoint deputy commissioners of civil marriages.

Using this authority, the Yolo County Clerk has authorized a program to allow an individual to be a "Commissioner of Civil Marriages for the Day". Due to the significant responsibilities associated with this, an individual who chooses to participate in this program must appear in person in the Clerk/Recorder's office to review and receive materials identifying their responsibilities and to take the Oath of Commissioner of Civil

Marriages for a Day. **No appointment is necessary.** The oath is valid on the day of the ceremony only.

According to guidelines established by the Yolo County Clerk, the individual requesting to be sworn in as a marriage commissioner for a day must:

- Identify the county the marriage will be performed in
- Identify the date of the marriage
- Provide the full names of the persons to be married
- Read and sign the oath
- Pay the \$109 fee

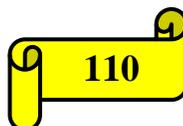
Accepted Payment Type: cash, check, money order or credit card

Freddie Oakley
Yolo County Clerk-Recorder

530-666-8130
Fax: 530-666-8109
[e-mail](#) ??

625 Court Street, Room B01
Woodland, California 95695

P.O. Box 1130
Woodland, California 95776-1130



Yuba County Recorder's Office

County Clerk

Terry A. Hansen

915 8th. St., Suite 107, Marysville, CA 95901

Phone: (530) 749-7851

Fax: (530) 749-7854

County Clerk/ Recorder • 915 8th St. Suite 107, Marysville, CA 95901 • (530)749-7850 • Fax: (530)749-7854

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- ***When can I get married at the Yuba County Clerk's Office?*** Marriage ceremonies can be performed without an appointment between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. and again between 2:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Due to the time necessary to complete a marriage license we suggest you arrive prior to 4:30.
- ***Do I need a blood test?*** No, California does not require a blood test.
- ***Do I have to be a California resident to marry in California?*** No, you do not need to be a California resident to marry.
- ***Is there a waiting period between the time the license is issued and when I can get married?*** No, you can be married any time within 90 days after obtaining a license.
- ***What is the fee for a marriage ceremony?***The fee for a civil marriage ceremony is \$40. If you are unable to provide a witness and one must be provided for you there is a \$20 fee for the witness. We recommend making an appointment if you will need our office to provide a witness as there are times when we do not have the staff available to provide this service.
- ***Does Yuba County permit private citizens to be deputized to perform civil marriage ceremonies?*** Not at this time.

PUBLIC MARRIAGE LICENSE INFORMATION

- Minimum Age: 18 years. Persons under 18 years of age require permission from a California Superior Court
- Both marriage license applicants must appear at the same time in the County Clerk's office located at 915 8th Street, Suite 107 in Marysville
- Both marriage license applications must have valid photo ID with proof of age (Acceptable forms of ID include a drivers license, passport, military ID, state issued ID)
- A public marriage license requires the ceremony to be performed in California
- A public marriage license is valid for 90 days from the date of issue
- If either party has been previously married or is a member of a State Registered Domestic Partnership with someone other than the co-applicant and was divorced or terminated their State Registered Domestic Partnership within 90 days of the date of application, a copy of the final judgment must be presented when applying for the license
- One witness is required to be present at the time the ceremony is performed
- Certified copies of a public marriage certificate may be purchased after the license has been registered. There is a separate fee for each certified copy.

Public Marriage License Fees

- Public Marriage License - \$60
- Civil Marriage Ceremony - \$40
- Civil Marriage Ceremony Witness: \$20
- Certified Copy - \$14 for requests received

[Application for Public Marriage License](#) PDF **IMPORTANT:** Read the information regarding the Name Equality Act of 2007 on the 2nd page of the application.

[Name Equality Act of 2007](#). PDF Additional information from the California Department of Public Health regarding the Name Equality Act of 2007.

[Application for Certified Copy of a Public Marriage Certificate](#) PDF (Effective January 1, 2010)

CONFIDENTIAL MARRIAGE LICENSE INFORMATION

- Minimum Age: 18 years. Minors may **not** purchase a confidential marriage license
- Both marriage license applicants must appear at the same time in the County Clerk's office located at 915 8th Street, Suite 107 in Marysville

- Both marriage license applicants must have valid photo ID with proof of age (Acceptable forms of ID include a drivers license, passport, military ID, state issued ID)
- A confidential marriage license requires the ceremony to be performed in the county where it was issued
- A Confidential marriage license is valid for 90 days from the date of issue
- No witnesses are required to be present at the time the ceremony is performed
- If either party has been previously married or is a member of a State Registered Domestic Partnership with someone other than the co-applicant and was divorced or terminated their State Registered Domestic Partnership within 90 days of the date of application, a copy of the final judgment must be presented when applying for the license
- Applicants for a confidential marriage license must sign a statement attesting to the fact they have been living together as spouses
- Certified copies of a confidential marriage certificate may be purchased only by either party of the marriage after the license has been registered. There is a separate fee for each certified copy.

Confidential Marriage License Fees

- Confidential Marriage License - \$65
- Civil Marriage Ceremony - \$40
- Certified Copy - \$14

[Application for Confidential Marriage License](#)  **IMPORTANT:** Read the information regarding the Name Equality Act of 2007 on the 2nd page of the application.

[Name Equality Act of 2007](#).  Additional information from the California Department of Public Health regarding the Name Equality Act of 2007.

[Application for a Certified Copy of a Confidential Marriage Certificate](#) 
(Effective January 1, 2010)

NOTE: Contact the County Clerk's office for information if one party is incarcerated or unable to appear due to hospitalization.

CERTIFIED COPIES

As of January 1, 2010, ONLY individuals who are authorized by Health and Safety Code Section 103526 can obtain a Certified Copy of a Non-Confidential (public) Marriage Record. All others may receive a Certified Informational Copy which will be marked, "Informational, Not a Valid Document to Establish Identity." Certified copies of confidential marriage certificates are only available to the parties of that confidential marriage. Informational copies are

not available for confidential marriage certificates. The fee for a certified copy of a marriage certificate will be \$14.

[Application for Certified Copy of Marriage Certificate](#) 

IMPORTANT: Read instructions to ensure you have completed the application correctly. Authorized recipients are required to have their signature notarized on the sworn statement of the application. Individuals not authorized to receive a certified copy or authorized individuals who do not have their signature notarized on the sworn statement will be issued an "Informational" copy which cannot be used to establish identify.

PUBLIC MARRIAGE RECORD - Authorized Recipients

- The registrant (one of the parties to the marriage)
- A parent, legal guardian, child, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner of the registrant
- A party entitled to receive the record as a result of a court order (include a certified copy of the court order with this request)
- A member of a law enforcement agency or a representative of another governmental agency, as provided by law, who is conducting official business
- An attorney representing the registrant or the registrant's estate, or any person or agency empowered by statute or appointed by a court to act on behalf of the registrant or the registrant's estate (if by power of attorney, include a copy of the power of attorney with this request)

CONFIDENTIAL MARRIAGE RECORD: Authorized Recipients

- A party entitled to receive the record as a result of a court order (include a certified copy of the court order with this request)
- One of the parties to the confidential marriage

PRIOR TO THE WEDDING



Before The Wedding Ceremony

1. Remember: marriage is for life...normally 100 years or better.
2. The items you are being presented with here today are only options. It is your wedding. You may pick and choose any of the items presented. You may add your own items; just let me know where to include it at.
3. The “Table of Contents” is not written in stone. It too can be modified for your choosing. **Moses: “So let it be written. So let it be done.”**
4. Be sure that no one “Locks their knees” during the ceremony. Slightly bend them, or move unnoticeable side to side, front to back. Everyone in front should look out for one another. If you’re not in the front, you’re in the back.
5. The rings must be placed in the palm of the hands, of any of the recipient at all times, so that they are not dropped.
6. If anyone wants to stop the ceremony *for any reason*, please raise your hand half way up, to notify the Officiate.
7. I am CPR and First Aide Certified in case of any fainting. Do not throw water in the face of the fainted. Try to catch the person so as they do not hit their head on anything. I carry an Emergency Kit with Ammonia tablets with me, in my right pocket. If I am not able to assist, for whatever reason, retrieve the tablet and just break it with both thumbs and forefingers and hold under the nose of the person until revived. (Note: Start at their chin area and gradually go to the nostrils) If necessary, treat for shock by elevating the person’s legs just over head height, so that blood pressure will flow back into the head area. Remove the person, if necessary, to another area for fresh air and relaxation. If they are in the sun, remove them from the area, loosen clothing and apply a cold compress with a wash cloth.
8. Know where the restrooms are located, especially for an outdoors wedding.
9. Please inform your guests to refrain from using their Cell Phones. Turn them down or place them on vibrate during the ceremony. I do not recommend that anybody turn off their phones, just in case of emergencies that they may have to attend to.
10. Please; if you’re too frightened, we can take a break. This should be a pleasurable occasion, not a frightening event.

11. Please have a handkerchief or Kleenex for drying tears during the ceremony. I will also have some in my Emergency Kit, which is held in my right hand pocket of my suit.

12. Watch where you're walking. The floor/ground may be uneven. During rehearsal, either fix the items or note where they are.

13. Watch where you're backing up into. There may be tables, trees, water, stones, scrubs, other people, or even worse: flames from candles. Let it be known that people tend to fall into backyard pools also.

14. The wedding party should be responsible and protective of each other. One for all, and all for one! Look out for each other. Make sure people are awake, will not walk into something, and are fit to accomplish their missions. If everyone takes responsibility, there will be no mishaps. The "Maid of Honor" should be responsible for the Bride's "Train" if it needs adjustment and for handling her bouquet of flowers.

15. The wedding ceremony is the most important part of your wedding day. In your ceremony you commit your life to the person that you love, creating a lifelong bond. It is also a time to worship God for bringing you together with your soon to be spouse and getting you to this new point in your walk of life.

16. Keeping God at the center of your wedding ceremony will also help you keep God at the center of your marriage. Every time you think back on your wedding ceremony it will remind you of how God is intimately involved in your marriage.



17. There is no single right way to plan a wedding ceremony. In general, there is nothing that necessarily has to be in your wedding. It is up to you, and your soon to be spouse, and your pastor or priest to create a ceremony that is both fitting for you and honoring God.

18. There are many ways to incorporate worship into your wedding. Hymns and songs, readings, and other elements will allow you to express your faith and give honor to God. One of the most common ceremonies in a Christian wedding is the giving of vows. The following are some more ideas to incorporate into your wedding to help symbolize your commitment to each other and to keep God at the center of your marriage!

19. Last but not least. Please read the next chapter on wedding days being perfect!

Downloadable Forms

The following files are FREE and are ready for your download at any time from my web site at: www.whitters.org. They are NOT protected so that you can modify them as you so please. You must have MS Word and/or MS Excel in order to open and edit them. If you have other forms not listed below, that you would like to share, please contact me at my E-mail address: whitters9570@yahoo.com. On the other hand, if you would like to have something made that is not shown, please contact me with that information. I'll do my best to create that form.



Excel Form



Word Document



[Appointment Schedule Worksheet - 18Jul12.xlsx](#)

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Type : xlsx



[Attendants Checklist - 11Sep12.xlsx](#)

Size : 15.229 Kb

Type : xlsx



[Best Mans Checklist - 16Aug12.xlsx](#)

Size : 43.723 Kb

Type : xlsx



[Best Man Duties Checklist - 27Jul12.doc](#)

Size : 39.5 Kb

Type : doc



[Blank Wedding Questionnaire - 13Aug12.xlsx](#)

Size : 57.468 Kb

Type : xlsx



[Bridal Shower Gift List - 11Sep12.xlsx](#)

Size : 13.072 Kb

Type : xlsx



[Bridal Shower Guest List - 30Aig12.xlsx](#)

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[Brides Wedding Day Checklist - 18Jul12.xlsx](#)

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Type : xlsx



[Bridesmaid Duties Checklist - 5Oc
t12.xlsx](#)

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[Bridesmaid Planning Checklist -](#)



[5Oct12.xlsx](#)

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[Bridesmaids Checklist -](#)



[17Aug12.xlsx](#)

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[Maid of Honor Checklist - 16Aug](#)



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[Day Of Timeline - DIY Wedding -](#)



[5Oct12.xlsx](#)

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[Day of Timeline - Formal Evening -](#)



[5Oct12.xlsx](#)

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[Fathers of the Bride - Groom](#)



[Checklist - 16Aug12.xlsx](#)

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[Father Of The Groom Checklist -](#)



[11Sep12.xlsx](#)

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[Final Checklist - 27Jul12.xlsx](#)



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[Flower Girls Checklist -](#)



[10Aug12.xlsx](#)

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[Gift List Checklist.xlsx](#)



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[Groomsmen Responsibilites](#)



[Checklist - 11Sep12.xlsx](#)

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[Guest List Spreadsheet -](#)



[5Oct12.xls](#)

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[Guest List Worksheet -](#)



[19Aug12.xlsx](#)

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[Honeymoon Checklist -](#)



[19Jul12.xlsx](#)

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[Important People Contact](#)



[List - 5Oct12.xlsx](#)

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[Maid Of Honors Duties](#)



[Checklist - 13Sep12.xlsx](#)

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[Maid of Honor Checklist - 2 -](#)



[11Sep12.xlsx](#)

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[Mother Of The Bride And Mother Of The Groom Checklist - 12Sep12.xlsx](#)



Size : 72.787 Kb

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[Mother Of The Groom Checklist -](#)



[12Sep12.xlsx](#)

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[Moving Checklist.xlsx](#)



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Type : xlsx

[Must Take Wedding Photo](#)



[Checklist - 8Aug12.xlsx](#)

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 [Name Change Checklist - 27Jul12.xlsx](#)
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 [Packing List - 5Oct12.xlsx](#)
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 [Planning Calendar - 27Jul12.xlsx](#)
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 [Prenup Agreement Sample - 21Oct12.doc](#)
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 [Questionnaire To Be Filled Out - 3Aug12.doc](#)
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 [Questions To Ask An Officiant - 12Sep12.xlsx](#)
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 [Reception Seating Chart \(Alphabetized\) - 20Aug12.xlsx](#)
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 [Reception Seating Chart \(By Table\) - 20Aug12.xlsx](#)
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 [Ring Bearer Checklist - 10Aug12.xlsx](#)
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 [Transportation Worksheet - 22Jul12.xlsx](#)
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Type : xlsx

[Ultimate Spreadsheet
- DIY Wedding -](#)



[4Oct12.xls](#)

Size : 34 Kb

Type : xls

[Ultimate Spreadsheet
- Formal Wedding -](#)



[4Oct12.xls](#)

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Type : xls

[Ultimate Wedding
Planning Checklist -](#)



[31Aug12.xlsx](#)

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[Ushers Checklist -](#)



[16Aug12.xlsx](#)

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Type : xlsx

[Vendor Contact
List - 5Oct12.xlsx](#)



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[Vendor Contact
List - 27Jul12.xlsx](#)



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[Wedding Budget
Worksheet -](#)



[9Jul12.xlsx](#)

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Type : xlsx

[Wedding Day
Checklist -](#)



[28Aug12.xlsx](#)

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[Wedding Day
Schedule -](#)



[5Oct12.xlsx](#)

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Type : xlsx

[Wedding Gift](#)

[Tracker - 3-](#)



[Sep12.xlsx](#)

Size : 20.599 Kb

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[Wedding Party](#)

[Contact Sheet -](#)



[9Jul12.xlsx](#)

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Kb

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[Wedding](#)

[Program Front](#)

[& Back -](#)



[7Aug12.doc](#)

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[Wedding](#)

[Program -](#)



[Single Folded](#)

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[Wedding](#)

[Program](#)

[Trifold](#)

[Brochure -](#)



[3Aug12.doc](#)

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[Wedding](#)

[Reception](#)

[Timeline -](#)



[12Sep12.xls](#)

[x](#)

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 [Wedding Vow
- 31Aug12.xls](#)
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 [Wedding
Weekend
Spreadsheet
- 5Oct12.xls](#)
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 [Wedding
Workbook -
DIY
Wedding -
4Oct12.xls](#)
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 [Wedding
Workbook -
Formal Wedding
- 4Oct12.xls](#)
Size : 70 Kb
Type : xls

 [Wedding
Worksheet -
4Jan12.xlsx](#)
Size : 19.769
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xlsx

Pre-Marriage Counseling

Now, as for pre-marriage counseling. It is \$50.00 an hour. Counseling is to make sure that the day you get married - you stay married. Unfortunately, in today economy, couples don't get married as often as they used to. They just split after they're tired of each other. Some states now require marriage counseling as a prerequisite for a divorce. Pre-marriage counseling advises you what to expect after just 2 weeks, 3 months, 6 months, 1 year, and the "7-year itch" of marriage. Just remember: Marriage is always 50/50, and it's for life! You give some, he gives some. Sometime he gives more. Sometimes you have to. But the average should always be 50/50. Counseling provides you with a reality check.

Do you like his family AND relatives?

Does he like your sister?

Do either of you snore?

Does he like the heat, and you love the cold? Bed covers or none!

Do either of you have a habit you don't want the other to find out about?

Are you a spender? A saver?

When was the last time you bought your spouse a gift that was not for any specific purpose?

Do you want a joint checking account? Separate savings?

Who wins in an argument? The person who yells the loudest?

Is there a jealous streak in you?

What secrets do you have in the closet, or that you're not telling me?

Don't swear, I don't!

Why can't I go out to the bars anymore?

Kids? When? Who changes the diapers? But I go to work in an hour!!! Let me sleep. . .

We need furniture. Is it going to be manly or girly? Leather or suede? Love seat? Sofa?

Recliner? Hide-a-bed? God I hate brown color!!!! I think it's my favorite!

Oh, by the way, you can't wear that dress anymore, it's too revealing and short. But GOD you look great in and OUT of it!

We haven't been bowling ever since we got married!!! When can we go to the movies again? I like putt-putt golf. But we're broke until the 15th.

My brother is coming over again tonight.

Can I borrow \$15.00 for lunch?

Tonight I have a headache, let's do it tomorrow instead. But you're so sexy and cute. OK, but it has to be a quickie. !@#@\$%&

Tonight is "Dancing with the Stars". I just have to watch it. But the basketball finals are on. We need another \$4000 flat screen Plasma LCD 90" TV for our bedroom!

Do we have enough money for a vacation this year? What vacation?

My favorite uncle just died, I need to go to his funeral.

If the unexpected is expected, expect it!

I cannot tell either of you NOT to get mad at one another. **It is human nature.** Coping skills help. Working together as a team – like I stated – the gives and takes – works best. My wife just last week stated “You always win”. This was after 28 years of marriage. Sometimes, it is best to explain your answer, or your position so that it is clear and to the point. You can’t buy that car! We can’t even pay for the cat food right now!

This is what pre-marital counseling is all about.

Remember: Marriage is for life! Or 99 years, which is longer!

Planning Your Ceremony

1. Nowadays I find many couples seeking an alternative to the traditional religious ceremony. Maybe they don't adhere to any specific religion but are spiritually minded couples who want more than just a civil ceremony. When a couple decides to create their own ceremony outside the standard civil or religious norm, they have the opportunity of giving it their very own signature, making it a true reflection of their personal beliefs and values. This definitely has its benefits. Creating your own ceremony can be a journey that helps you to clarify your feelings and prepare for the emergence of two lives in friendship and love, compassion and forgiveness. In essence, it gives you as a couple chances to create more than a wedding ceremony, it lays a beautiful foundation for the actual union of marriage.

2. Personalizing a wedding ceremony affords you the opportunity to plan and work together. Both the bride and groom are equally important in the equation even though many grooms in general relinquish the details to the bride, thinking it's all up to her. Instead, planning your ceremony together can be a sacred and meaningful journey in itself. It will give you both the experience of expressing your preferences and representing yourselves in order to make the ceremony a true reflection of who you are individually *and* as a couple.

3. You may not know how to actually get started and that is where I come in. Remember, this is your wedding and you are ultimately the one in charge. You need to be able to work with an officiate that cares about what you want and will provide guidance and help in the design and development of the ceremony. This begins by contacting me to set up an initial consultation, which can be held in person, via email, in a chat conference or by telephone. This allows us to get comfortable with one another and provides opportunity for discovering and discussing your personal style and approach to life, and therefore identifying your needs, desires and circumstances. This is where I gather details and provide you with a basic outline of ceremony protocol and meaningful options to take into consideration. And although I am hoping at this point you will retain my services, this initial consultation is always free and without obligation. You will simply be asked to email or phone me with your decision.

4. When you begin creating your own ceremony it may seem like a daunting task. That's why I am here... to help you decide what is best for you, to work according to your individual circumstances, and to offer plenty of suggestions and examples that you can personalize or glean from in order to express yourself. The more input you offer about the various facets of your relationship, your persona and style, the more personal and unique your wedding ceremony will be. Just remember, communication is key when it comes to a 'Signature' ceremony.

5. Your wedding is a celebration of your marriage and your beliefs. It is a reflection of who you are and what you value. It is your opportunity to build a foundation for your marriage through a public declaration of the power of love in your lives. It is my wish that it becomes not only a process of discovery but a journey towards a wonderful, lifelong union.

6. [Plan The Perfect Wedding Ceremony](#). Please do not get disappointed if things go wrong. That is why your wedding day is **nothing but perfect**. People may not show up, they may be late, they may stutter, forget what they are supposed to say or do, they may forget their lines or queues, mispronounce names, food may not taste right, etc. Just remember, these are not mistakes, it is what it is! It's just perfect! Minor infractions do make the marriage invalid, it just makes it perfect! In fact, there are only two days in your life that a mistake can never be made:

1. On your wedding day, and
2. During your funeral.

So on your wedding day, just make sure things are perfect. Then the following day and so on. . . the same thing...it's just perfect!

Love One-Liners

Created by: Reverend Steve Whitters on 17 September 2007



- “You’re everything I never knew I always wanted...”
- “You’re the only other half that makes me whole.”
- “Sometimes, the only part of my life I’m sure about is the love I share with you.”
- “If I know what love is, it’s because of you.”
- “You are my life, my heart and my soul.”
- “Being with you is a gift while loving you is precious.”
- “I love you not only for who you are, but for what I am when I’m with you.”
- “I hope that you finally understand that I will love you until the end, because you’re not just my man, you’re also my best friend.”
- “I love when you look at me, because I know for one second I’ve crossed your mind.”
- “You’re everything to me that he never was...”
- “I would give up anything just to be with you.”
- “I love you more and more each day.”
- “When I look into your eyes I get lost and when that happens I never want to find my way out.”
- “You are God’s most wonderful gift to me.”
- “I love you with the breath, the smiles and the tears of all my life.”
- “No one has ever loved me, the way that you have.”
- “Loving you is like nothing I’ve ever felt before...”
- “I love you, more than words could ever say.”
- “You showed me the real meaning of love.”
- “I don’t know much, but I know I love you.”
- “I love you very much, because with you, I found a way to love myself again.”
- “I’m so blessed to have you.”
- “If loving you is a mistake, it’s a mistake worth taking.”
- “Just when I think that it is impossible to love you any more, you prove me wrong.”

- “I love you unconditionally, with everything I am, and more than anyone ever thought possible.”
- “For a few moments in my life you’ve made me feel as if I truly meant something to someone.”
- “I love you, without any doubts, no hesitations, no limit.”
- “I came alive when I started loving you.”
- “When I grow old, I want you to be the one there beside me.”
- “When we’re together or when we’re apart, you’re first in my thoughts and first in my heart.”
- “Loving you is the second best thing I have done, finding you was the first.”
- “Falling in love with you was the easiest thing I’ve ever done in my life.”
- “I don’t regret the things I have done or the things I have chosen not to do because whatever I’ve done, I must have done something right because I ended up with you.”
- “You’re the best thing that ever happened to me.”
- “With you, I am home.”
 - Enter as strangers, leave as friends.
 - ~~~~~
 - Strangers are just friends waiting to happen.
 - ~~~~~
- Good friends are like stars. You don't always see them, but you always know they are there.
 - ~~~~~
 - Friends are God's way of taking care of us.
 - ~~~~~
 - Some people make the world special just by being in it.
 - ~~~~~
 - Seasons may come and go but a friend is forever.
 - ~~~~~
- Sometimes people come into your life and you know right away they were meant to be there...to serve some sort of purpose, teach you a lesson or help figure out who you are or who you want to become.
 - ~~~~~
 - "Friendship consists of only one soul; inhabiting two bodies." -- Aristotle
 - ~~~~~
 - I asked God for water, he gave me an ocean.
I asked God for a flower, he gave me a garden.
I asked God for a tree, he gave me a forest.
I asked God for a friend, he gave me YOU.
 - ~~~~~
 - Some people come into our lives and quickly go.
Some people become friends and stay a while...

Leaving beautiful footprints on our hearts...

And we are never quite the same

Because we have made a good friend!!

- Submitted by HmRn123

- ~~~~~

- What is a friend?

It is a person with whom you dare to be yourself."

- ~~~~~

- If you live to be a hundred, I want to live to be a hundred minus one day, so I never have to live without you." -- Winnie the Pooh

- ~~~~~

- "True friendship is like sound health; the value of it is seldom known until it be lost." -- Charles Caleb Colton

- ~~~~~

- Time stands still at that glorious moment when you realize you've found a new friend.

- ~~~~~

- True friendship is a plant of slow growth.

- ~~~~~

- I believe that friends are quiet angels who lift us to our feet when our wings have trouble remembering how to fly.

- ~~~~~

- A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart and can sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words.

- Submitted by HomeRn123

- ~~~~~

- A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out.

- ~~~~~

- If you should die before me, ask if you could bring a friend." -- Stone Temple Pilots

- ~~~~~

- "I'll lean on you and you lean on me and we'll be okay." -- Dave Mathews Band

- ~~~~~

- Once perfect strangers, now perfect friends.

- ~~~~~

- Friends are like pockets, everyone needs them.

- ~~~~~

- "We all take different paths in life, but no matter where we go, we take a little of each other everywhere." -- Tim McGraw

- ~~~~~

- Everyone hears what you say. Friends listen to what you say. Best friends listen to what you don't say.

- It's the friends that you can call at 4AM that really matter. -- Marlene Dietrich
 - ~~~~~
- If all my friends were to jump off a bridge, I wouldn't jump with them, I'd be at the bottom to catch them.
 - ~~~~~
- "My father always used to say that when you die, if you've got five real friends, then you've had a great life." -- Lee Iacocca
 - ~~~~~
 - "Hold a true friend with both your hands." -- Nigerian Proverb
 - ~~~~~
- Even when you think you have no more to give, when a friend cries out to you, you will find the strength to help.
 - ~~~~~
- My best friend and I can do anything or nothing and have the best time.
 - ~~~~~
- True friendship continues to grow, even over the longest distance. Same goes for true love.
 - ~~~~~
 - "In prosperity our friends know us; in adversity we know our friends."
 - John Churton Collins
 - ~~~~~
- No matter how good a friend is, they're going to hurt you every once in a while and you must forgive them for that.
 - ~~~~~
- We don't have to change friends if we understand that friends change.
 - ~~~~~
- A true friend is someone who is there for you when he'd rather be somewhere else. - Len Wein
 - ~~~~~
- Real friends are those who, when you've made a fool of yourself, don't feel that you've done a permanent job.
 - ~~~~~
 - The only way to have a friend is to be one. -- *Ralph Waldo Emerson*
 - ~~~~~
- How rare and wonderful is that flash of a moment when we realize we have discovered a friend. -- *William Rotsler*
 - ~~~~~
- The best kind of friend is the one you could sit with on a porch swing, never saying a word, and then walk away feeling like that was the best conversation you've ever had.
 - ~~~~~
 - Good friends are hard to find, harder to leave, and impossible to forget.

- ~~~~~
- A best friend is like a four leaf clover, hard to find and lucky to have.
- ~~~~~
- Most people walk in and out of you life, but only friends leave footprints in your heart.
- ~~~~~
- Some people make the world special just by being in it.
- ~~~~~
- Best friends are the siblings God forgot to give us.
- ~~~~~
- When it hurts to look back, and you're scared to look ahead, you can look beside you and your best friend will be there.
- ~~~~~
- True friendship never ends. Friends are forever.
- ~~~~~
- There is no better doctor than a true friend.
- ~~~~~
- My best friend is the one who brings out the best in me. -- *Henry Ford*
- ~~~~~
- No matter what happens, I'll always be with you. Forever. -Pocahontas
- Real friends walk in when the rest of the world walks out
- The best friends share the good times and help you out by listening during the bad times.
- Friends are someone who knows the song in your heart and can sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words.
- When I'm with you, I don't feel so alone -Hercules
- Best Friends are someone who know all about you and loves you anyway.
- If all my friends were to jump off a bridge, I wouldn't jump with them, I'd be at the bottom to catch them.
- One who finds faithful friends, finds a treasure.
- The medicine of life is to have true faithful friends.

- True friends are someone you can disagree with and still remain_friends. If not, they weren't true friends in the first place.
- True friends are very difficult to find, hard to leave, and impossible to forget.
- True friends reach for your hand and touch your heart.
- True friends think you are a good egg even if you are half cracked.
- _friends are for now, best friends are forever
- Good friends might be a person to the world but to me they are the world
- i'll pretend to hug you until u get here
- _friends are like rainbows...always there to cheer u up after a storm
- all you need is your best friends, and the fun will just follow.
- _Friends are like stars, you can't always see them but you no they are always there.
- If you fall...I fall If you cry...I cry I feel the pain you have inside...I will always be there for you
- Life is a party and friends are there to help us enjoy it
- I'm surrounded by angels...but I call them my best friends.
- Best friends are sisters that aren't related.
- A friendship is like a four leaf clover hard to find but lucky to keep
- You'll always be my best friend... You know too much.”
- Good friends will come bail you out of jail... but True Friends will be sitting next to you sayin Dang girl... we messed up...

- if you and your friends were fighting over a cookie, friends would give it to you...
but a best friends would take the whole thing and say... haha! to slow loser!
- Good friends will help you up when you fall.. But best friends will help you up,
laugh, and trip you again.
- Good friends will help you up when you fall, but best friends will look down at you
and say, “Walk much, klutz?”
- True friends are some that can tell when you’re sad, even if you have a big fake
smile on...
- friends don’t think of you as weird, _friends think of you as just unique
 - My friend and I are the type that if the house was on fire, we’d be making s’mores
and hitting on the firemen.
- One look at your smile and I could see the light shining everywhere. - Aladdin
- I'd rather die tomorrow than live a hundred years without knowing you. -
Pocahontoas
- Let's make some magic! - Genie in Aladdin
- All it takes is Faith and Trust. -Peter Pan
- A dream is a wish that you make with your heart! - Cinderella.
- Listen with your heart, you will understand. - Pocahontas.
- Did you ever stop to think, and forget to start again? - Winnie the Pooh
- Love is a song that never ends. - Bambi
- I made a wish upon a star, I turned around and there you were - Bolt

- When you wish upon a star, your dreams come true. - Pinocchio
- From this day on now and forever more, you'll be in my heart. - Tarzan
- I think my bunny slippers just ran for cover. – Mushu in Mulan

Are You A LGBTQ?

Are you in fact a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Gay couple? If so, Reverend Whitters doesn't care. We at LGBT Weddings do not discriminate against sexual orientation. We are here for business only. In fact, Reverend Whitters even has a LGBT web site at: <http://LGBTweddings.yolasite.com>. AND he is also listed on the National GLBT web site at: <http://www.glbtguide.com/CA/BusCity/ElkGrove/elkgrove.html>.

Don't get confused about LGBT(Q) or GLBT. They are the exact same thing.

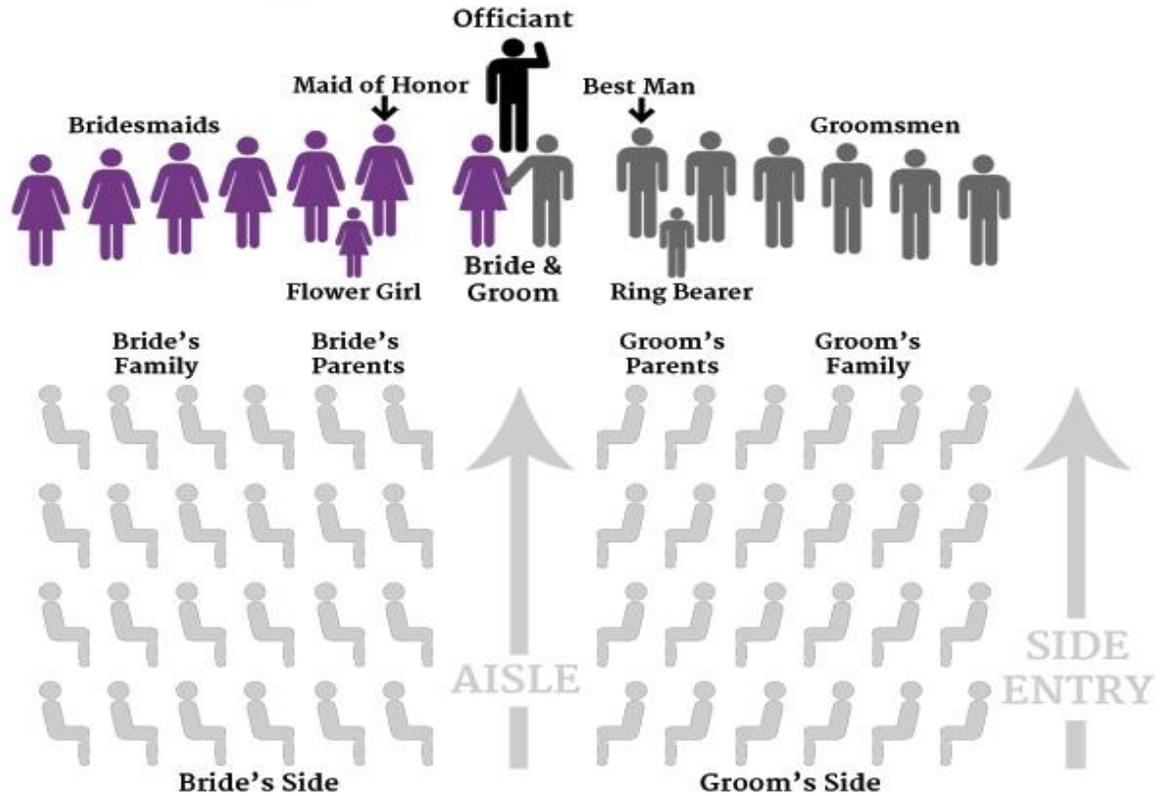
If you would like some LGBT vows sent to you for examples, please [E-Mail](mailto:whitters9570@yahoo.com) me at: whitters9570@yahoo.com. I will E-mail you back the same day! You ask for service, you get it!

REHEARSALS

In manual #10 I have well over 50 different rehearsal guides for you to review. I only present a few here in this manual.



Wedding Ceremony Rehearsal Guide



ENTRANCE ORDER (PROCESSIONAL)

1. Grandparents of the Groom
2. Grandparents of the Bride
3. Officiant, Groom, Best Man, and Groomsmen (from side entry if desired)
4. Parents of the Groom
5. Mother of the Bride
6. Bridesmaids
7. Maid of Honor
8. Flower Girl and Ring Bearer
9. Bride / Father of the Bride

EXIT ORDER (RECESSIONAL)

1. Bride and Groom
2. Maid of Honor and Best Man
3. Bridesmaids and Groomsmen (in pairs when exiting)
4. Flower Girl and Ring Bearer
5. Parents of the Bride
6. Parents of the Groom
7. Grandparents of the Bride
8. Grandparents of the Groom
9. Officiant
10. Wedding Guests

NOTE: Please excuse the lack of gender-neutral terminology in this diagram. For common variations of this order, including ideas for our LGBT couples, please see the "Variations" section of the guide at <http://ceremonyofficiants.com/resources>.

*About Rehearsals

1. First of all, I cannot over emphasize the importance of holding a rehearsal if you wish to present a formal and elegant processional that includes a Bridal Party, seating of honored guests, or musical cues. It will make for a much more relaxed atmosphere on your wedding day and assure you (and me) that everyone knows their cues, their placement and their responsibilities. Please remember that your entire wedding from processional to receiving line is a reflection upon you as a couple and on my reputation as your officiate.
2. Secondly, if you have a wedding party of more than two attendants (Maid of Honor/Best Man) a rehearsal is mandated. I will require your assurance that one will be held. However, you are not obligated to retain *my* services for your rehearsal. Perhaps you have hired a wedding coordinator or prefer to self-conduct a rehearsal with a stand-in for the Officiate. If that is the case I will be happy to provide logistics and an outline of ceremony protocol.
3. Your rehearsal should take approximately 45 minutes or less, depending on the size of your wedding party. Please make sure that everyone will be available and on time and that you have all music, props (bouquet, candles, etc.) that will be used during the ceremony. It is imperative that whoever is handling the music be available with the audio equipment and musical selections so they will know their cues the day of the ceremony.
4. Lastly, please advise everyone who will attend the rehearsal to arrive fifteen minutes early so we can begin at the designated time. If the rehearsal runs late the rehearsal dinner will likely run late also. My advice is to schedule your rehearsal dinner first which will assure that everyone is available for the rehearsal, relaxed and on time. There is no reason for a rehearsal to go beyond 45 minutes.
5. Please note: If you need assistance or direction the day of the wedding (rolling out the runner, bustling the wedding dress, directing of attendants and ushers, etc.) this service is available via my Colleague. **Her name is: Sandra Stephenson.** She can be contacted at: **(916) 617-1415.** **Her URL is:** cherishLLC@gmail.com. Also see my Chapter concerning Wedding Consultants.
6. Start by explaining the ground rules of the wedding. Simply put, this is the wedding of the bride and groom. All ideas must be filtered through them.
7. I am the Official at this wedding and should be responsible for what happens during this event to honor the Bride and Groom. If it seems that I am not in control, the results could be chaos. If there is one event where you do not want to experience chaos, it is at your own wedding. Both you and I must communicate if the rehearsal is going to be complete.

8. Good rehearsals should take about 45 minutes. If I have planned well with the couple in advance, it can happen. Long rehearsals are not a blessing.
9. Begin the rehearsal with the wedding party lined up front.
10. Go through the ceremony quickly, not in a word for word manner. Simply walk the wedding party through the various parts of the ceremony. Everyone should have cheat sheets.
11. Make sure musicians are present at the rehearsal. I have seen musicians ruin wedding because they thought they knew what to do and thus didn't need to attend the rehearsal. Their attendance is crucial because music often governs many of the transactions at the wedding.
12. Have the wedding planned before you get to the rehearsal. Very few changes should take place in your plans at the rehearsal.
13. While the wedding party is up front, rehearse the ceremony; then have the wedding party file out of the church/grounds/etc., and go through the entire ceremony one more time. There are those times when you will need to walk through the ceremony one last time also.
14. Many couples use wedding coordinators today. They can be a real asset or a hindrance. Make it clear to the couple that I will officiate the wedding ceremony. I am not in charge of the dinner, the music, gowns, or other items not intended for a Chaplain. The coordinator can help the individuals to get down the aisle on time and work in areas of timing and movement. It is my job to officiate the wedding.
15. If you're interested, there are many other Rehearsal Guides in manual #2 of 16 (Prior To The Wedding). They discuss the step-by-step rehearsal procession, placement of Bridesmaids and Groomsmen, etc. Where AND WHEN does the father give the bride away? When and what music is played? What are my responsibilities in all these matters?

How To Coordinate A Successful Rehearsal!

You'll need to have a take-charge attitude here. Don't be afraid to be very, very bossy at this point...generally speaking, no one knows what is going on, and if you can take charge of the rehearsal, they will appreciate it!

This is just a general outline of a standard ceremony. When you know more about what you would like to include in your own personal ceremony, it can be further customized so that you can follow these suggestions to the letter.

BEFORE CEREMONY BEGINS

Officiate enters as couple has decided.

Groom joins officiate and stands at officiates left side and slightly forward.

PROCESSIONAL

Processional music begins.

Groomsmen and Bridesmaids walk down the aisle. When one pair (or if they are walking alone, each person) reaches the front, the next pair (or person) proceeds, until all of the wedding party is standing at the front. Groomsmen will stand on the Officiates left side, and bridesmaids on the Officiates right side, leaving space for the bride.

Next comes the Ring Bearer and Flower Girl, if present.

When all of the Bridal Party is at the front, the Bridal March music begins.

Now the Bride and her Father (or whomever is accompanying the Bride) walk down the aisle together. At this point, it is usually customary for the congregation to stand. (If I see that they are not standing, I usually say, "Would you please stand for the Bride?")

The Bride and her Father approach the Officiate and remain standing (if the Bride is being presented by her Father or someone else). Music should end at this point.

OFFICIATE will now welcome everyone and read opening words. If the Bride is being given away by her Father or someone else, after the opening words the Officiate will say: Who gives this woman to be married to this man? (or whatever phrase you choose to use)

RESPONSE: The father, friend, or guests respond with whatever has been decided upon as the response.

OFFICIATE: Thank you. You may all be seated. (Bride's father sits down; congregation sits down.) (At this point the Flower Girl and Ring Bearer may also be seated in the front row, if you like. These attendants are usually kids, and they get nervous and fidgety up in front of a lot of people. When it's time for the rings, the Ring Bearer can get up and bring them up to the Best Man and Maid of Honor to retrieve and then hand to the Bride and Groom.)

OFFICIATE will read OPENING READING or whatever the couple has decided upon.

OFFICIATE will then administer WEDDING VOWS by asking the couple to join hands (if they wish to do so) and say, "I do" after Officiate reads the vows, or they can read their own written vows to each other, or repeat vows after the OFFICIATE. (I do not suggest actually reading the vows at the rehearsal; save them for the wedding day, when the words will mean even more.)

OFFICIATE will read RING VOWS and ask for the couple to each repeat after the OFFICIATE (in short phrases, I promise!)

UNITY CANDLE CEREMONY (if you choose to have one)

(BY THE WAY - If you want to practice this and actually light the candles at the rehearsal, I would highly recommend it. Not only will it familiarize you with the lighters, and the candles, it will also give the candles a little time to burn [at least two minutes] and make them MUCH easier to light during the actual ceremony.)

(Bride and Groom each take one of the single candles and together light the large unity candle. They may then do one of the following:

1. Set both individual candles back in their holders still lit (to symbolize that although they are united they are still distinctive individuals) OR
2. Blow out both of the individual candles and then set them back in their holders.

(OFFICIATE will continue reading this while the Unity candle is being lit, or you can play a song at this point)

(After the unity candle is lit, Bride and Groom return to stand in front of the Officiate, with hands joined.)

OFFICIATE will read Closing Words, and then make the DECLARATION of Marriage (followed by the "you may kiss" part)

After the kiss, the couple turns to face the congregation, and the OFFICIATE makes the INTRODUCTION of the Newlyweds....(It is now my pleasure to introduce to you MR & MRS _____!!!

The crowd cheers.....everyone smiles.....

RECESSIONAL MUSIC may begin at this point

Bride and Groom walk back down the aisle, followed by the pairs of Groomsmen and Bridesmaids.

Now, repeat this entire rehearsal again ONE MORE TIME, just to make sure that everyone knows where they are going, where they are supposed to stand, etc. If all goes well, this entire rehearsal should not take more than 1/2 hour to 45 minutes. Remember, whomever is in charge...DON'T BE AFRAID TO YELL! Raise your voice, Take Charge, and speak loudly and clearly! The more authority you speak with, the quicker the rehearsal will be over and you can go and have your Dinner! LOL.

How To Organize And Coordinate Your Rehearsal

General Information on Rehearsals

The rehearsal addresses four questions:

1) How and from where do the bride, the groom and the rest of the bridal party enter the wedding site and get up in front of the guests?

2) In what order do they arrive?

3) Where do they stand?

4) In what order do they leave?

1) How and from where do the bride, the groom and the rest of the bridal party enter the wedding site?

The answer depends on the physical attributes of the wedding site, and how you, the couple, want people to enter. Here are some possible options.

The Groom's Entry: Grooms traditionally enters in one of five ways.

a) The groom is already out mingling with the guests and, at ceremony time, he simply stands at the pre-designated spot in front of the guests. (If this is done, make sure that the Bridal party is READY, then have the OFFICIATE stand in front as a signal to the Groom that it's time for him to take his place.)

b) After the guests are all seated, the groom escorts his mother (sometimes also the bride's mother) or both mothers to their seats, and then simply steps up his pre-designated spot in front of the guests. Usually the Officiate is already in place at this time.

c) After the bride and groom's mothers are seated, the groom enters quietly from the side with his best man and the minister.

d) The groom accompanies the minister down the central aisle. (This is the most commonly requested entrance for me.)

e) The bride and groom enter together by walking down the central aisle.

The Bride's Entry: Brides enter in one of three ways

- a) Traditionally, the bride is the last person to reach the pre-designated spot in front of the guests. Most often, she walks down the central aisle, either by herself or accompanied by a friend or family member (usually by her father, if he is available).
- b) The bride and groom enter together by walking down the central aisle.
- c) The bride and groom are already mingling with the guests and, at ceremony time, they simply stand at the pre-designated spot in front of the guests and everyone else is invited to gather around.

Entry of the Bridesmaids and the Groomsmen

This is the simplest of all. If you are standing with the Groom you walk down the central aisle and go to the right. If you are standing with the Bride, you walk down the central aisle and go the left.

2) In what order do the members of the bridal party enter the wedding site

The answer is: Anyway you want them to.

But here's the traditional entry order.

- 1 Guests are all seated
- 2 Mother of the groom is seated (Front row right)
- 3 Mother of the bride is seated (Front row left)
- 4 Minister
- 5 Groom
- 6 Best man
- 7 Groomsmen
- 8 Bridesmaids may enter separately or walk with Groomsmen
- 9 Maid (or Matron) of honor
- 10 Ring bearer

11 Flower girl (or Ring Bearer and Flower Girl may enter together)

12 Bride (with or without an escort)

13) Where Does Everybody Stand?

Again the answer is: Anywhere you want them to.

Here are the traditional positions.

Minister

Front center facing the guests

Groom

On right --- After bride arrives, he will stand in profile to guests --- facing his bride; or, may stand slightly at an angle so he can see the bride yet the guests can still see him

Best man

On right --- closest to groom

Groomsmen

The first groomsman to enter stands the furthest away from the groom. The last to enter stands closest to the best man. When all the groomsmen have taken their places, they can scrunch up closer together (to save room if the venue is small or to make picture-taking easier! Same for the Bridesmaids.) Except for the Groom and Best Man, the remaining Groomsmen may be lined up by height.

Bridesmaids

The first bridesmaid to enter stands the furthest away from the bride. The last to enter stands closest to the maid of honor. As with the Groomsmen, the Bridesmaids may also be lined up by height.

Maid of honor

On left --- closest to bride

Ring bearer

On right --- between best man and the closest groomsman. Or they may be seated with their parents.

Flower girl

On left -- between maid of honor and the closest bridesmaid. Or they may be seated with their parents.

Bride

On left --- in profile to guests --- facing her groom: or, may stand slightly at an angle so she can see the groom yet the guests can still see her

Bride's Escort

He/she usually does not remain standing (unless "giving away the Bride, and then he/she waits until the Minister asks the question, "Who gives this woman/Who supports this woman/etc." and then takes a seat in the front row

4) In What Order Do People Leave?

Again, the answer is: Anyway you want them to.

Below is the traditional way.

Everyone walks out by going down the central aisle.

1 Bride and groom together

2 Ring bearer and flower girl together (or separate if you prefer)

3 Maid of honor and best man together (or separate if you prefer)

4 Bridesmaids and groomsmen together (or separate if you prefer)

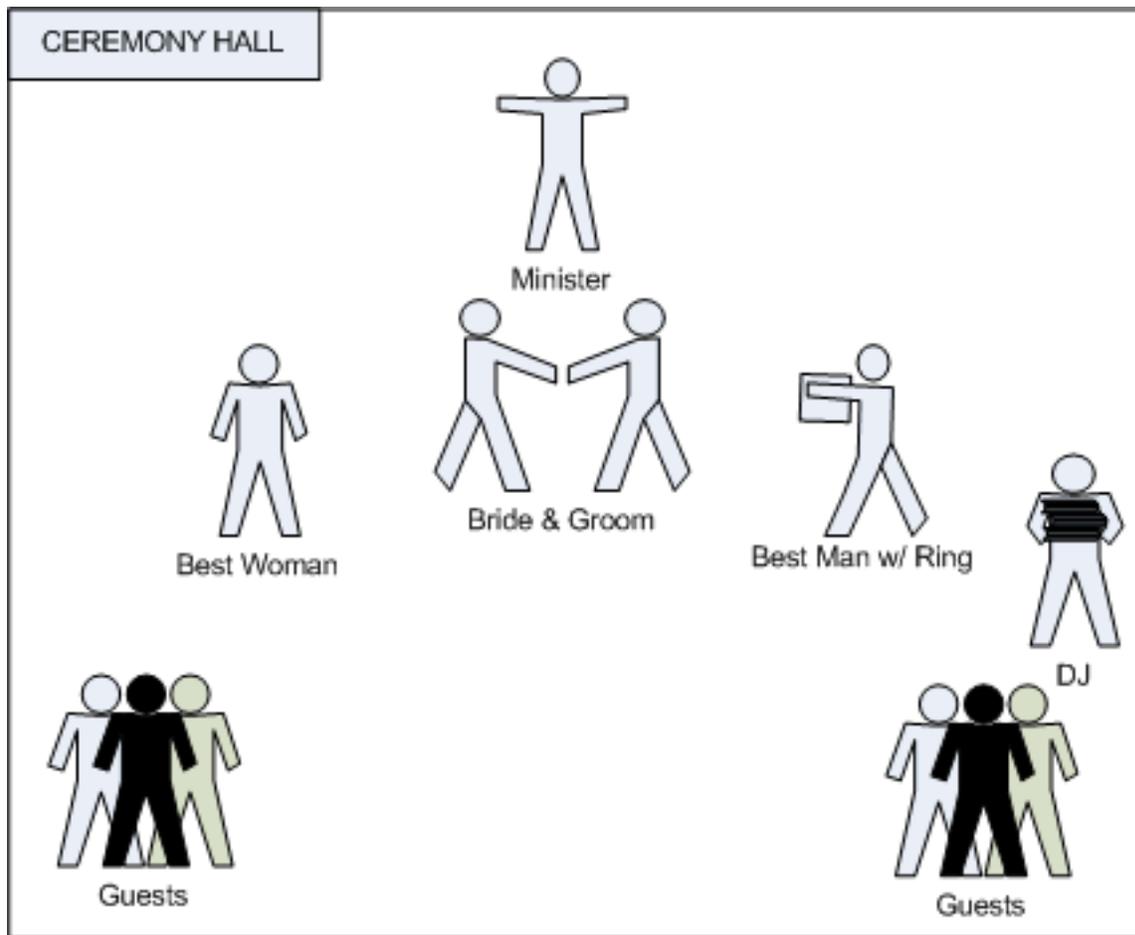
5 Parents of the bride

6 Parents of the groom

7 The remaining guests

8 Minister

Rehearsal Guide



Wedding Rehearsals Figure (1)

Most weddings do not require a rehearsal! However, if you feel nervous about the whole thing or the bridal party is simply really, really large then you might want to consider having a wedding rehearsal. There is nothing magic about rehearsals and you can coordinate them yourself, unless you would rather have the minister there with you. This page will tell you all you need to know about a wedding rehearsal so you can do it yourself and save some money. Here's what you need to do the rehearsal yourself.

Wedding Rehearsal Objectives

1. Bridal party understands what to do and where to go
2. Bridal party knows what time you need them
3. Ring bearer(s) know where to get the ring from and when
4. Discuss contingencies regarding flower girls, ring bearers, late people

Step by Step Wedding Rehearsal

1. **Work Backwards:** start at the "altar" - position your party as you want them in the place where the wedding ceremony will take occur - the ceremony *destination*. The bride will be on the left side as you enter the room. The maid of honor is next to her, either to the side, or side and slightly closer to the audience. Ditto for groomsmen on the right side. You may want to arrange them by height to obtain a pleasant visual effect - either from shorter to taller or backwards.
2. Decide (in your mind) whether you want the bridal party to enter as couples or one at a time. You make the rules, both ways work - if it is a really large party get them to come in together, otherwise it does not much matter so go with whatever you like.
3. Next tell them to stay there and go to the place from where you will want them to start walking towards the destination, at the back of the room. Ask the best man and maid of honor to join you. Then the next couple, and on, and on. Arrange them so that the first people to enter the room are those who will be closest to the bride and groom at the destination.
4. Between the best man/maid of honor couple will be flower girls and ring bearers, if any. Don't bother telling little kids when to start walking (they will forget so you will do it again anyway) but do tell them what to do - "walk up to the minister and then go to your mommy; throw flower petals all along the way". Most important is to tell the kids' parents NOW that, should the kids get lost / frazzled / scared on the aisle, the parents should (in the middle of the wedding ceremony) get up or break formation and go to their kids, and take them to wherever they need to take them so that the children are ok. Of course, little kids will take their time and they are cute when they do, but some get shy and stop in the middle and cry. Tell their parents to simply go and take care of the kid if the kid gets spooked, as many do! Also, tell the parent to take the kids to the back or away if they start crying. It may sound like the right thing to do to stay there with the child in the middle of the ceremony, but it is no fun listening to kids crying for the whole duration of *your* wedding and never hearing anything you or your beloved said. So be practical - just like you would be at a theater play. If the crying children re yours... well, you know best.
5. Now discuss the entrance. The groom may enter in with me and the best man and groomsmen. If the groomsmen are entering with the corresponding bridesmaid, then the groom could still enter with me and the best man.
6. The bride may be brought in by both her parents otherwise, dad should bring her or she can even come alone. I've even had two fathers bring a bride - natural and step father, and it was nice.
7. So imagine the following entrance: start pre-professional song, something like [Cannon](#)

in D if you want to be traditional or anything you like otherwise.

Tell the groom, or whoever is first to start moving - during the ceremony they will have to signal with the DJ (or the minister, and the minister will signal the DJ) so that music starts the same time. When the first walker get to the middle of the isle (length-wise) have the second walker start. That way the distance between them will be roughly the same. When the flower girl / ring bearer is ready to start walking (last groomsman / bridesmaid gets half way down the aisle) have the DJ start the processional. Processional can be something happy and proud. The secret is that most anything works, if you like it! Wait for the flower girl to get to the front and then start.

8. At this point the minister will have folks stand up for you. Smile! Then walk to the front. About 4 feet in front of the groom, hug and kiss dad and let the two men shake hands. Then take your place facing the groom so that the minister can see your left side and the audience the right side.

9. If you have readers during the ceremony (recommended) tell them they will be introduced by the minister and tell them where to go to read (stay in place or come to the front) and which way to face (bride and groom, audience, across).

10. If you have other activities, talk about who would go where and would do what. Not much to rehearse, a good minister will guide you during the ceremony.

11. Now you are ready to exit. You will be introduced and the music starts. The bridal party will walk out in reverse order from what they came in like. Best man and maid of honor first, parents last.

12. Then stop wherever you want to have the receiving line and instruct the bridal party to line up there with you in any order you wish.

Keep in mind receiving lines will slow you down on starting any photographs and most everyone simply mingles with the guests at the appropriate time during the reception.

CHECKLISTS

Wedding Day Survival Kit Checklist

As picture perfect as we all imagine our wedding day to be, the truth is, there will always be hiccups along the way. A bridesmaid might chip her nail, a groomsman might need a little lint-roller action on his tux and the flower girl might stain her dress. Just ask, accidents are bound to happen! So, we teamed up to put together a downloadable survival kit checklist. The better prepared you are, the smoother your day will go!

Everyone should have an emergency kit handy on the day of an important event. As an event producer, I would not show up without it. However, the emergency kit is not just a necessity for event producers, it is also a great thing for a bride/groom to have when preparing for the big day.

Anticipating anything big or small that can go wrong on the day of is key to producing a successful event. After over 20 years of working in the business of weddings and events, I've pretty much been through it all in terms of minor or major mishaps. From the bride and groom forgetting their rings, to the mother-of-the-bride falling into a pool, allergic reactions, over-tanned bridesmaids, groomsman in gym socks with their tuxedos, even fires, floods, and hurricanes. Gradually these things have led me to having the mindset of "expecting the unexpected."

We've included a list below and a downloadable survival kit checklist!

WEDDING DAY SURVIVAL KIT

Personal Hygiene

- Hand Sanitizer
- Razors
- Eye Mask
- Tooth Brush
- Tooth Paste
- Teeth Wipes
- Dental Floss
- Tic Tacs
- Breath Spray
- Mouthwash
- Tampons
- Chapstick
- Band-Aids
- Kleenex
- Tweezers
- Deodorant
- Lotion
- Eye Cream
- Baby Powder
- Make Up Remover
- Face Wipes
- Q-Tips

Beauty & Fashion

- Hair Comb
- Hair Spray
- Hair Bands + Bobbypins
- Nail Kit (Nail polish remover, nail file, white nail polish)
- Push Pins/Safety Pins/Floral Pins
- Mirror
- Black + Nude Ribbon
- Black socks, Spare Underwear
- Jewelry (Pearls, Fake Diamond Ring)
- Extra Earring Backs
- Heel Protectors for walking on grass in stilettos
- Roll-up Flats in case someone breaks their shoe
- Shoe Pads
- Chalk for a quick stain disguise
- Tide Pen
- Fashion Tape
- Dryer Sheets – to fix static
- Sewing Kits
- Binder clips – all sizes to pinch dress if needed for pictures
- Lint Roller

Extras

- Straws
- Energy Drinks
- Paper Clips
- Coat Check Numbers
- Hot Glue Gun
- Extra Glue Sticks
- Rubber Bands
- Ear Plugs
- Blister Repair
- Wire
- Goo-Be-Gone
- Exacto Knife
- Lighter/Matches
- Extra Butane
- White Out/Highlighter
- Eyeglasses Repair Kit
- Tape Measure
- Batteries
- Sand Paper
- Super Glue
- Medicine (Benadryl, Advil, Tums)
- Epi-Pen

12 Month Checklist

General Thoughts

While you are planning your fabulous wedding, there are a few policies you should adopt to ensure that everything goes smoothly. These are relatively simple tips and strategies that can have a big impact on your wedding planning. Every bride can benefit from heeding the following advice:

- **Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today.** There will be plenty to do as your wedding grows near; don't make things worse by leaving everything to the last minute.
- **Stick to your budget.** If you have a well-thought-out budget, life will be a whole lot easier. You won't end up in the poor-house after your wedding, and you won't waste time pursuing options that you can't afford.
- **Get everything in writing.** Every aspect of every purchase or service agreement should be in writing, so if things don't work out to your satisfaction, you will have the proper recourse. Another way to keep from being a victim is to get references from every place you're considering doing business with.

Ten to Twelve Months

- Select an engagement ring
- Insure the ring
- Announce the engagement
- Set the date
- Attend your engagement party
- Hire a wedding planner
- Draft a preliminary guest list
- Draft a budget
- Begin a bridal registry
- Determine the style and formality
- Research a ceremony venue

- Research a reception venue
- Begin researching, interviewing, and hiring vendors
- Set up a wedding website

Eight to Ten Months

- Select the wedding party
- Select a ceremony venue
- Select a reception venue
- Shop for your gown
- Book a caterer (if necessary)
- Book entertainment
- Book a photographer
- Book a videographer
- Order Save-the-Date cards

Six to Eight Months

- Order your wedding gown
- Book the florist
- Book a hairstylist
- Book a makeup artist
- Order the wedding cake
- Hire an officiant
- Secure rentals
- Organize travel accommodations for guests
- Organize accommodations for wedding night (and night before)
- Schedule an engagement photo session (after hiring photographer)



- Research wedding invitations
- Research honeymoon destinations and check travel advisories
- Finalize remaining vendor commitments
- Book parking attendants
- Order bridesmaids' dresses
- Research other stationery needs (menu cards, place cards, ceremony programs)

Four to Six Months

- Mail Save-the-Date cards
- Select formalwear for the groom and men
- Have mothers shop for attire
- Plan the rehearsal dinner
- Plan the prewedding and postwedding parties
- Finalize the guest list
- Order the wedding invitations and announcements
- Order invitations for the rehearsal dinner and the wedding parties
- Hire a calligrapher for invitations and place cards
- Book the honeymoon
- Get your passports (if necessary)

Two to Four Months

- Select wedding day transportation
- Shop for wedding bands
- Research marriage license requirements
- Research and select a seamstress for alterations



- Select the wedding favors
- Determine a reception menu
- Finalize cake flavors and design
- Shop for bridal accessories (lingerie, jewelry, headpiece/veil, etc.)
- Shop for bridesmaids' accessories (jewelry, shoes, purses)
- Develop a preliminary itinerary for the wedding day
- Verify the gown delivery date
- Address and assemble invitations
- Have the invitations weighed at post office, buy postage for the invitations and response envelopes
- Confirm delivery dates for wedding gown and bridesmaids' dresses

One to Two Months

- Mail the invitations (six to eight weeks)
- Shop for thank-you gifts (attendants, parents, etc.)
- Prepare a shot list for the videographer and photographer
- Make arrangements for preserving the bridal bouquet
- Make arrangements for preserving your bridal gown
- Have a wedding day hair and makeup preview
- Finalize rehearsal dinner plans
- Send rehearsal dinner invitations
- Finalize the ceremony details
- Finalize the reception details
- Finalize musical selections with entertainment
- Attend dress fittings/alterations
- Prepare the wedding announcement for the newspaper



- Attend wedding showers
- Purchase wedding accessories (guestbook/pen, ring pillow, etc.)
- Schedule final beauty/grooming appointments

One Month

- Get a marriage license
- Finalize the itinerary with vendors and ceremony/reception locations
- Begin a seating plan for the reception
- Pick up the wedding bands
- Schedule the final gown fittings and confirm a pickup date
- Write thank-you notes (for any wedding gifts already received)
- Break in your wedding shoes
- Begin finalizing the wedding day itinerary

Two Weeks

- Give the final guest count to the caterer/reception location
- Call guests who have not responded
- Confirm the rehearsal dinner guest count
- Begin packing for the honeymoon
- Make final payments to vendors (payments due between now and the wedding day)
- Finalize the seating chart and send seating/place cards to calligrapher
- Prepare a “Bridal Emergency Kit”

One Week

- Pick up your gown
- Attend the final grooming/beauty appointments
- Call/e-mail venues and all vendors to finalize arrangements, delivery times, etc.
- Attend bachelor/bachelorette parties



- Arrange to have mail/package delivery stopped (during your honeymoon)
- Attend the bridal luncheon

Two to Three Days

- Pick up the tuxedos for groom and men
- Cut checks for the remaining vendor payments
- Prepare vendor tips
- Drop off wedding accessories at the venue or to the wedding planner
- Deliver welcome baskets
- Pack a bag for the wedding day

One Day

- Attend the ceremony rehearsal and distribute wedding day itinerary
- Deliver remaining accessories to the wedding planner, church coordinator, etc.
- Attend the rehearsal dinner
- Present attendants with their gifts at the rehearsal dinner
- Go to bed early — get your rest!

The Wedding Day

- Give vendor tips and payments to best man or wedding planner
- Marry the man you love and have a great day!

After the Wedding

- Send your bouquet for preservation
- Send your gown for cleaning and preservation
- Complete and mail the thank-you cards
- Thank your vendors (phone call and/or note)
- Thank your parents and attendants (phone call and/or note)
- Change your name, if you planning on doing that.



Checklist For The Brides Wedding

Answers to your most important wedding speech questions plus examples for every member of the wedding party.

A Bride's Wedding Day can be filled with lots of joy, excitement and anticipation along with a measure of anxiety and a certain level of stress. The following checklist will hopefully help to keep the anxiety and stress levels to a minimum.

1. Wedding Gown

As we all know your wedding gown is a very important item on your wedding day, I dare say some brides will consider it THE most important. After all, you've invested a lot of time, not to mention money, in selecting the perfect gown. So, it should go without saying that you should make sure your gown is ready the night before the wedding, right? While you are doing that, also make sure that the following items are ready;

- * Veil and headpiece
- * Special undergarments (bra, panties, slip, hosiery)
- * Garter
- * Shoes
- * Gloves
- * Jewelry

And in case your veil or dress gets a bit wrinkled have an Iron or Steamer handy.

2. Make-up and Hair

If you are doing the make-up yourself, the following items should be easily accessible;

- * Make-up (foundation, powder, eye liner, eye shadow, blush, lip pencil, lipstick)

If you are having someone else do your make-up, call and confirm your appointment time.

Other essential items are;

- * Nail polish and file
- * Curling Iron, curlers
- * Comb, brush
- * Hairspray, extra bobby pins
- * Hand-held mirror

Again, if someone else will be doing your hair, call to confirm the appointment time.

3. Emergency Kit

I'm not talking about a First Aid Kit or the famous black bag that doctors carry, unless of course you are a doctor. I'm talking about a few items that can help make your day be a smooth one. To that end you will need the following;

- * breath mints
- * hanky
- * small needle and thread kit
- * a few safety pins
- * extra hosiery
- * lipstick and compact mirror

4. Reception

If you are planning to change your outfit for the reception, make sure you have;

- * Going-away outfit
- * Going -away shoes and hosiery
- * Undergarments
- * Accessories (jewelry, etc)

And if you are departing for your honeymoon right after your reception;

* Honeymoon suitcases should be placed in the get-away car along with your wedding night bag.

5. Ceremony

Most common items for a ceremony are;

- * Ring pillow
- * Flower basket (if not being delivered by your florist)
- * Bible
- * Unity Candles
- * Bridal Bouquet

However, the list can dramatically change depending on religion, ethnicity, type of ceremony, etc. Make sure your checklist on this category includes the items you want to incorporate in your ceremony.

The Wedding Day is the one day where prayers for perfection abound. Making a "to do list" will keep things from feeling out-of-control and overwhelming, thus allowing for a more enjoyable and pleasurable experience for the bride and those around her.

Wedding Purse Essentials - It's All In The Bag!



On your big day the last thing you are probably thinking of is what purse to carry with your wedding dress. While you won't want to have anything hanging on you all day (other than the groom of course), it is helpful to have a small purse or clutch to match your gown with some wedding day essentials in it.

First off you need to select a cute clutch or evening bag that will coordinate with your wedding dress. Go with an elegant beaded, white or ivory bag to match your gown or choose a bag with a pop of color that accents your wedding colors and accessories. You obviously won't hold this purse during your ceremony but have it on hand before and bring it along to the reception. Give one of your bridesmaids the job of keeping track of it for you!



Things you might want to include in this bag are:

- Compact mirror
- Hanky or tissues
- Lipstick or lip gloss
- Powder
- Small perfume spritzer
- Pocket comb
- Breath mints
- Bobby pins

Choose purse or travel size beauty items to fit in your bag.

Another important bag to have on hand the day of your wedding is a larger tote bag with other emergency items and necessities. These items will be used by you and any of your bridesmaids who might be of need. Keep this bag on hand where you and your bridal party will be getting ready. For this carry-all tote bag, choose a large durable bag with fun personalization (bride-to-be or your name or monogram). These [personalized totes](#) are also great gift ideas for all of your bridesmaids.



Here is a list of must-haves to have on hand on the big day. Okay, so it might not all fit in one bag!

- First aid items (Band-Aids)
- Comb, brush, hairpins
- Hair spray
- Medicines for headaches, upset stomach, allergies
- Sewing Kit with needles, thread and safety pins
- Anti-static spray
- Lint roller
- Spot and stain remover
- Eye drops and spare contacts (if the bride or groom wears them)
- Travel iron or steamer for touch ups
- Pen and pad of paper for last minute notes
- Miscellaneous tools for emergency repairs to decorations (scissors, tape, stapler, super glue)
- Nail polish for touch ups, nail file, nail glue
- Deodorant
- Lotion
- Make-up kit
- Tooth brush and tooth paste
- Double sided fashion tape
- Tweezers
- Extra earring backs
- Green floral tape and boutonniere & corsage pins
- Crochet hook (for brides buttons and an easy way to bustle your dress)
- A light snack and bottle of water

Pack your wedding day purse and tote bag a day or two beforehand. That way you can just grab it and go the day of. Having these items on hand will hopefully quell any big day disasters or mishaps!

Wedding Checklist: Big And Small Things You Might Forget



With so much happening before a wedding, it's easy to let little things and even big tasks fall by the proverbial wayside. If you're paranoid about forgetting something, or a bunch of things, check out the following checklist of "big and small" tasks to remind yourself of what still needs handling:

Printed Items

- Invitations
- Place cards
- Cake bags
- Thank-you notes

Reception and Wedding Venue Stuff

- Disabled access—for friends and family in wheelchairs, etc.
- Maximum number—find out the maximum amount of people the venue can accommodate
- Safety—learn where the fire exits are and any other safety precautions you should know about at your chosen venue
- Liabilities—know what you'll be liable for should anything at the venue get damaged
- Meal choices—who at your wedding is vegetarian or vegan? Has food allergies? Is going gluten-free?

Bride and Bridesmaids

- Hair and Makeup—do a trial run or two with your chosen hairstylist/makeup artist, and ensure the person knows where to go on your big day
- Dresses—whatever you decide on for yourself and your bridesmaids, it's best to go with options that flatter everyone's figure, even if it means different dresses in the same hue
- Underwear—make certain no one's underwear peaks out if dresses are low-cut!
- Shoes—if you aren't picky about shoes, ask your bridesmaids to buy what they want in the same color
- Garter—you'll need this!
- Earrings—check which bridesmaids have their ears pierced before ordering
- Necklaces—don't forget them!

Groom and Groomsmen

- Rent or buy—sometimes it costs just as much to rent them, so decide what you want early on
- Cummerbunds—have them made if renting the suits

Cake

- Type—decide what kind of cake you want, and if you want the tiers to be different
- Knives—necessary for cutting the cake! Use any knife you like, or a special cake knife

Flowers

- Bride and bridesmaid flowers
- Corsages and posies—groom, groomsmen, mother of the bride
- Arrangements—for church or reception
- Flower disposal—have fresh flowers pressed or framed if desired
- Extra bouquet—if you plan to throw the bouquet, do you want to use yours or a spare?

The Wedding

- Chairs—necessary for an outdoor or hall wedding
- Flowers—decorations for the front of the venue
- Chair decorations—either on the pews, or back of the chairs
- Cushions—if you and your groom plan on kneeling at anytime

Reception

- Table decorations
- Tablecloth and chair covers
- Music
- Cake
- Favors
- Wedding photo album—want it available for guests to sign?
- Favors
- Gifts—wedding registry? Gift preferences?
- Table plans
- Place cards—so guests can find their seats without issue

Photographs

- Location—decide on the time and place for pictures, preferably somewhere close to the reception
- Video—want to do a professional wedding video, or no?
- Props—are you using any special keepsakes or other items in your photos?
- Money—ensure you have enough money for payment!!

Transportation

- Bridal car—for you and your dad, then you and your hubby
- Bridesmaid car—for the bridesmaids and flower girl
- Groom car—for the groom and his guys
- Honeymoon car—the car you and your hubby take your leave in
- Guests without Transport—make arrangements for elderly relatives and others without transportation
- Car ribbon—make your own or find one online

Bridal Bag

- Bridal party mobile phones/purses
- White chalk—for covering white dress stains
- Needle and thread
- White and colored ribbon—for any hair issues
- Double-sided tape
- Safety pins
- Tampons
- Hairspray
- Extra makeup
- Antihistamines
- Breath mints/dental floss
- Bobby pins

- Wet wipes
- Perfume
- Deodorant

Important Peeps

Don't forget about these people!!

- Officiant
- Wedding planner
- Emcee
- Ushers
- Photographer

Honeymoon

- Transportation
- Clothing
- Tickets/passports/travel info

Additional Stuff

- Wishing well—for cards/money from guests
- Gifts
- Ring cushion
- Rings
- Thank-you cards
- Rental items
- Cleanup, payment, gift pickup

CHOOSING A WEDDING LOCATION (VENUE)



Eleven Tips For The Perfect Outdoor Wedding

(Avoiding Outdoor Wedding Pitfalls)

1. **You've decided to have an outdoor wedding?** Congratulations. Outdoor weddings are romantic and beautiful. However, they aren't as easy as they may look. Outdoor weddings come with additional caveats and pitfalls, but if you follow these tips, you'll be sure to shine on your wedding day.

2. **Make your guests comfortable.** Think about what the weather will likely be at the time of day and month of the year of your outdoor wedding. Sunny and hot? Don't leave your guests uncomfortably melting – have your ushers give guests ice-cold bottles of water as they are seated. Consider printing your wedding program on a fan so that guests may cool themselves. Don't forget to have plenty of sunscreen on hand as well. For a very warm location, look into renting large electric fans (don't forget a generator) and/or a tent to shade the sun's rays. If it will be cold and damp, make sure you tell guests that so they can wear extra layers. A simple Xeroxed insert will do. You might want to have lap blankets on hand, or rent portable heaters.

3. **Always have a backup plan!** What will you do if it rains? What will happen if the wind is blowing too hard? The ideal outdoor wedding location has an indoor location waiting just in case. Many brides and grooms opt to have their ceremony outside and reception inside. In a pinch, the tables can be scooted to the back of the room during the ceremony. A tent is another option, but only for light to moderate rain storms. A heavy rain will soak the ground underneath, leaving guests with soggy and muddy shoes. Make sure any tent you rent is sturdy so it won't flip over, and that it has thick and weighted sides.

4. **Plan for Wind and Inclement Weather.** Many outdoor weddings suffer from windy conditions. Avoid light fabrics like chiffons and china silks in your dress and the bridesmaid dresses. Tell your hairstylist that you'll be having an outdoor wedding so she/he can plan a style that won't leave you looking like Cousin It! Men in the wedding party should use pomade or other styling product. Again, tell your guests in a printed insert so that they can plan accordingly. And of course, make sure your tent will stand up to gusting winds or find an indoor backup plan.

5. **Can everybody hear?** When you picture your dream wedding at the beach, you're probably not hearing the roaring of the waves, the rushing wind, or the local kids running and screaming around you. Look into renting a sound system with clip mikes for the bride, groom and officiate. Your DJ or band may be able to easily arrange this for you.

6. **Decorations.** One of the bonuses of an outdoor wedding is the natural beauty around you, lessening your need to decorate. But you still need to do some work. Visit the site a

week before your wedding to make sure the grass is mown, the ground raked, and the flowers have bloomed. If your wedding is at a public park, you may want to ask the groomsmen or friends to do this the morning of your ceremony. If it's been an especially cold season, you may need to

supplement the flowers with some potted bulbs from a florist. Other decorations you may want to consider include an arch or trellis to focus the ceremony and frame the bride and groom as they say their vows; strings of lights or lanterns in the trees; luminaries; torches; or farolitas.

7. **Make things tasty outside.** Does your caterer have experience planning an outdoor wedding menu? Make sure they're planning things that will keep well outdoors in the heat. Avoid things like mayonnaise salads or dishes which must be served cold.

8. **Don't leave your guests parched.** Since alcohol is dehydrating, consider serving a variety of lemonades, teas and punches. Be sure to have plenty of ice and water around as well. For a fancy cocktail, why not serve a classic mint julep or a mojito? The mint will refresh and cool your guests.

9. **Those pesky flying things.** Be sure to put out citronella candles or a bug zapper so that your guests won't spend the whole ceremony swatting at the air.

10. **Here comes the sun.** Consider timing your outdoor wedding for sunset where your guests will see you take your vows surrounded by the warm glow of the sun. Those having a daytime outdoor wedding should orient the ceremony so that the sun will be on guests' backs rather than in their eyes.

11. **Permits.** Don't forget to contact your city parks department or other local government to get a permit for an outdoor wedding. Be sure to ask about rules concerning trash removal, candle or torch lighting, and pre-wedding photography.

Outdoor Wedding Tips For The Bride

Outdoor weddings make for some of the most beautiful weddings. However, outdoor weddings can also be challenging to the bride.

Every bride wants to look her absolute best on the big day. But, with an outdoor wedding and depending on your location, you may have to deal with wind, hot weather, bugs, and the dreaded chance of rain.



Here are five additional tips to help you stay gorgeous on your outdoor wedding day.

1. Choose a lightweight wedding dress. Forget heavy silks or satin; choose a lightweight fabric, such as georgette, linen or chiffon. Be careful about the bottom of your dress as well; a more fitted skirt is less likely to be blown up by the wind than a wide and flowing skirt.
2. Ditch the traditional veil. Instead of wearing a longer veil that can blow around and wreak havoc during your ceremony, consider wearing flowers, a cage veil, or a combo of both. Flowers are more in keeping with your outdoor setting, and leaving off the long veil will also help you stay cool outdoors.
3. Minimize your makeup. Heavy makeup, especially in a humid climate, will feel too heavy on your face. You don't want to look like you are melting! Choose light makeup, possibly a powder-based foundation and lighter eye make-up for a more natural look.
4. Wear a durable hairstyle. Your hair must be resistant to the wind and heat. A good idea is to ask your hairstylist to create an elegant up-do that will continue to hold up no matter how windy or hot it is outside. Think a French twist or classic tight bun for a sleek and elegant look.
5. Consider flat shoes. It can be awkward walking on grassy ground or on sand wearing sharp high heels. They may sink into the ground, or worse, you may trip and fall. A flat shoe or chic sandals are ideal for an outdoor wedding. And, if you are on the beach, why not go barefoot?

SACRAMENTO VALLEY AREA VENUES



Sacramento Area Wedding Locations For Consideration

1. This is just a partial list of wedding locations. By far, it is NOT a complete listing. If you're looking for a location, this may help you find your ideal place! If you know of one that is NOT listed, please let me know. And of course, I DO NOT endorse, nor have any preferred locations, because the following is "for information only".

2. Helpful Hints: If you're looking for a specific wedding venue, you can do an internet search under "Wedding Venues in? County". Or you might just want to contact the Chamber of Commerce or the Visitor's Bureau for the county you're seeking.

3. If you find that a "Hyperlink" does not work, please let me know: Reverend Steve at: E-Mail: whitters9750@yahoo.com or by calling my Cell Phone: (916) 214-3980.

4. A "Hyperlink" takes you directly to the mentioned web site. Move your mouse over one of the underlined sites; and while holding down the "Control" key and click your mouse.

5. Locations in **BLUE**, are good to go.

6. Locations in **BROWN** do not have a Web site.

7. Locations in RED are being updated.

8. Locations in GREEN are venues that are either Rustic, Farm, Ranch, County Western or Barn. Or they may be a combination.

9. Locations in BLACK (BOLD) are venues that are either Museums or Galleries. Or they may be a combination of both.

0. Locations in ORANGE are venues that are Water Featured.



Last Update: 16 September 2016

[A Timeless Event](#) - 1017 L Street #1015, Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: (916) 202-7477

[Alta Sierra Biblical Gardens](#) - 16343 Auburn Road, Grass Valley, CA 95949

Phone: (530) 272-1363

[Amber House Bed & Breakfast](#) - 1315 22nd Street, Sacramento, CA 95816

Phone: (916) 444-8085

[Ambler's Banquet Hall](#) - 2000 Amblers Lane, Stockton, CA 95204

Phone: (209) 464-2973

[America River Resort – Coloma](#)

[Ananda Weddings](#) - 14618 Tyler Foot Road, Nevada City, CA Phone: (530) 478-7587

[Antiquite' Maison Privee](#) - 2114 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95816 Phone: (916) 706-0886

[Arcade Creek Recreation and Park District](#) - (***Margi Herzog Community Center***) - 4855

Hamilton Street, Sacramento, CA 95841 Phone: (916) 482-8377

[Arden Hills Resort Club and Spa](#) - 1220 Arden Hills Lane, Sacramento, CA 95864

Phone: (916) 473-1902 or (916) 482-6111

[Armaans Palace Event Hall](#) - 2301 Longport Ct, Elk Grove, CA. 95758

Phone: 916-247-4896 or 916-747-1336

[Artisan Building](#) - The Artisan at Uptown, 1901 Del Paso Boulevard, Sacramento, CA

95815 Phone: (916) 929-9900

[Auburn Valley Country Club](#) - 8800 Auburn Valley Road, Auburn, CA 95602

Phone: (530) 269-2775

[Barbara Morse Wackford Community Center](#) - 9014 Bruceville Road, Elk Grove, CA

95758-8450 Phone: (916) 405-5600

[Barbara's Barn – Napa Valley](#)

[Bartholomew Park](#) - 9292 Lakepoint Drive, Elk Grove, CA 95758 (No Web Site)

Elk Grove's Parks and Recreation: (Phone: (916) 405-5600

[Bartley Cavanaugh Golf Course](#) - 8301 Freeport Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95832

Phone: (916) 870-8597

[Bayliss Ranch - Biggs](#)

[Bear Flag Farm](#) - 9420 Stevenson Bridge Road, Winters, CA 95694

Phone: (530) 753-9494

[Beatnik Studios](#) - 2421 17th Street, Sacramento, CA 95818 Phone: (916) 443-5808

[Belazio Galleria](#) – (No Website) 6243 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Carmichael, CA, 95608

Phone: (916) 483-8511

[Bella Vista](#) - 581 Cold Springs Road, Placerville, CA 95667 Phone: (530) 622-3456

[Ben Ali Shrine Center](#) - 3262 Marysville Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95821

Phone: (916) 920-4107

[Berghold Estate Winery](#) - 17343 North Cherry Road, Lodi, California 95240

Phone: (209) 333-9291

[Blue Victorian](#) - 5071 Suisun Valley Road, Suisun Valley, CA 94534

Phone: (707) 422-8025 (Also see Mankas Corner & Vezer Family Vineyards)

[Brookshire Gardens](#) - 6201 North Street, El Dorado, CA 95623 Phone: (530) 363-0751

[Brookside Country Club](#) - 3603 Saint Andrews Drive, Stockton, CA 95219

Phone: (209) 444-4717

[Cada Courtyard](#) - 1322 O Street, Sacramento, CA Phone: (916) 322-2114

[Café American](#) - 1023 Front St, Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: (916) 498-9098

[California Auto Museum](#) - Sacramento - Old Town (Formerly Towe)

[California State Railroad Museum](#) - 111 "I" Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, Facilities Rental: Phone: (916) 324-3747 E-mail: rrmuseuminfo@parks.ca.gov.

[California State University Alumni Center](#) - 6000 J St, Sacramento, CA 95819
To make a reservation contact Julie Oliver at (916) 278-7809 or Phone: (916) 278-6011

[California Wedding Hall And Party Rental](#) - 7323 Home Leisure Plaza, (MAIN OFFICE is #4), Sacramento, CA 95823 Phone: (916) 393-1187; 24 Hour Hotline: (916) 276-3208

Calistoga Ranch - Calistoga

[Cameron Park Event Center](#) - 2502 Country Club Drive, Cameron Park, CA 95682
Phone: (530) 677-2231

[Capitol Plaza Ballrooms](#) - 1025 Ninth Street, Suite 201, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 443-4483

[Carriage House Gardens](#) - 6444 Sylvan Road, Citrus Heights, CA 95610
Phone: (916) 616.4637 or (916) 880.8682

[Carvalho Family Winery](#) - (Old Sugar Mill) 35265 Willow Avenue, Suite 206, PO Box 297, Clarksburg, CA 95612 Phone: (916) 744-1625

[Casa Garden Restaurant](#) - 2760 Sutterville Road, Sacramento, CA 95820
Phone: (916) 452-2809

[Catta Verdera Country Club](#) - 1111 Catta Verdera, Lincoln, CA 95648
Phone: (916) 645-7200

[CAVERNA 57](#) - 836 57th Street, Sacramento, CA 95819 Phone: 916-737-5757
Fax: 916-258-9797

[Center For The Arts](#) - 314 West Main Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945
Phone: (530) 274.8384

[Center for Spiritual Awareness](#) - 1275 Starboard Drive, West Sacramento, CA. 95691
Phone: 916-374-9177

[Centerville Estate](#) - 2748 Green Bay Way, Sacramento, CA 95826-2218
Phone: (530) 891-0641

[Ciello Estate](#) - 3046 Ponderosa Road, Shingle Springs, CA 95682
Phone: (530) 672-8575 (Was Sogno Winery)

[Citizen Hotel](#) - 926 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: (916) 447-2700 or (916) 447-2700

[Citrus Heights Community Center](#) - 6237 Fountain Square Drive, Citrus Heights, CA 95621 Phone: (916) 725-2448

[Clubhouse 24](#) - 920 24th Street, Sacramento, CA 95816 Phone: (916) 446-1173
(No Web Site)

[Clubhouse at Paradise Valley](#) - 3990 Paradise Valley Drive, Fairfield, CA 94533
Phone: (707) 421-2234

[Clubhouse at Rancho Solano](#) - 3250 Rancho Solano Pkwy, Fairfield, CA 94534
Phone: (707) 434-1160

[Clubhouse At Woodcreek](#) - 5880 Woodcreek Oaks Boulevard, Roseville, CA 95747
Phone: (916) 771-4676

Coloma Country Inn - 345 High Street, Coloma, CA Phone: (530) 622-6919

[Community Centers](#) - (Sacramento) Most any Community Center will entertain the idea of a wedding. Please contact the individual Center of your liking. There are just too many to list all of them here.

[Community Gardens](#) - (Sacramento) Most any Garden will entertain the idea of a wedding. Please contact the individual Garden of your liking. There are just too many to list all of them here.

Cooper Vineyards - Plymouth

Cornerstone Gardens - Sonoma

[Country Club Event Center](#) - **Sky Room** - 2600 Watt Avenue Sacramento, CA 95821
Phone: (916) 488-7545

[Courtyard by Marriott](#) - 120 Nut Tree Parkway, Vacaville, CA 95687
Phone: (707) 451-9000

Courtyard D'ORO - 1107 Front Street Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: (916) 552-2940

[Cracchiolo's Market Deli Catering & Banquet Facilities](#) - 1320 E Main Street, Woodland, CA 95776 Phone: (530) 662-3213

Crawford's Barn - 2715 Tiber Drive, Sacramento, CA 95826 Phone: (916) 361-0537

[Croatian American Cultural Center](#) - 3730 Auburn Boulevard, P. O. Box 214711, Sacramento, CA 95821 Phone: (916) 489-0339 or (916) 214-0339

[Crocker Art Gallery](#) - 216 O Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: (916) 808-7000

[Crowne Plaza](#) - Northeast – 5321 Date Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95841
Hotel Front Desk: 1-(916) 338-5800 | Hotel Reservations: 1-(877) 270-1393

[Crystal Hermitage Gardens](#) - (Ananda Village) 14618 Tyler Foote Rd. #81, Nevada City, CA Phone: 530-478-7500

[Dante Club of Sacramento](#) - 2330 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95825
Phone: (916) 925-8230

[David Allyn Kraham's Gypsy Express Co.](#) - 4538 Shippee Lane, Stockton, CA 95212
Phone: (209) 931-0435

[David Girard Vineyards](#) - 741 Cold Springs Road, Placerville, CA 95667
Phone: (530) 295-1833

[Davis Odd Fellows Hall](#) - 415 2nd Street, Downtown Davis, Davis, CA 95616
Phone: 530-758-4940

Dawn Ranch Lodge - Guerneville

Delta Diamond Farm Event Center - 15175 Highway 160, Isleton, CA 95641 Phone: (916) 777-5800

[Delta King Riverboat](#) - Old Sacramento, 1000 Front Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 444-5464

[Depot Park Conference Center](#) - 8215 Ferguson Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95828
Phone (916) 381-8200

[Diamond Oaks Golf Course](#) - 349 Diamond Oaks Road, Roseville, CA 95678
Phone: (916) 771-4653

[Doubletree By Hilton Hotel Sacramento](#) - 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento, CA

95815 Phone: (916) 929-8855

Dry Creek Ranch House – Rio Linda

Durham Ranch – St. Helena

[El Dorado Hills Community Services](#) - 1021 Harvard Way, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

Phone (916) 614-3200

[Elk Grove Event Center](#) - 8434 Bradshaw Road, Elk Grove, CA 95624

Phone: (916) 243-5353

[Elks Tower Sacramento](#) - 921 11th Street, Suite 210, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 446-6342

[Embassy Suites Sacramento](#) - Riverfront Promenade, 100 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, CA

95814 Phone: (916)-326-5000

[Empire Mine State Historic Park](#) - 10791 E Empire St, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Phone: (530) 273-8522

[Empress Hornblower Cruises and Events - Old Sacramento, 1206 Front Street, Sacramento, CA Phone: \(916\) 446-1185](#)

[England-Shaw Vineyards - 4265 Morse Lane, Winters, CA 95694-9680](#)

Phone: (530) 795-3425 (No Web Page)

[English Garden](#) - (Has No Current Web Site) 6227 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Carmichael,

CA 95608 Phone: (916) 830-1047

[Eventi Ltd. At Caverna 57](#) - 836 57th Street, Sacramento, CA 95819

Phone: 916-737-5757

Farm On Putah Creek - Winters

Fausel Ranch - Placeville

[Field and Pond](#) - 26055 County Road 29, Winters, CA Phone: (415) 845-2295

[Firehouse - Old Sacramento](#) - 1112 Second Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 442-4772

[Flamingo Banquet Hall](#) - 7900 Florin Road, Sacramento, CA 95828 Pardeep (PAUL)

Phone: (510) 325-8433 or Call (916) 392-9999

[Flamingo Banquet Hall](#) - 910 Lincoln Road East, Vallejo CA. 94591- Pardeep (PAUL)

Phone: (510) 325-8433

[Fletcher Farm Community Center](#) - 7245 Fletcher Farm Dr, Sacramento, CA 95828

(916) 383-9677

Flower Farm Inn - 4150 Auburn Folsom Road, Loomis, CA 95650

Phone: (916) 652-4200 | Toll Free: (800) 870-1104

[Folsom Community Center](#) - 52 Natoma Street, Folsom, CA 95630

Phone: (916) 355-7299

[Foothills Event Center](#) - 400 Idaho Maryland Road, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Phone: (530) 271-1000 Fax: (530) 271-1757

[Forest House Lodge](#) - 24590 Main Street, Foresthill, CA 95630 Phone: (530) 367-2840

[Four Points By Sheraton Sacramento International Airport](#) - 4900 Duckhorn Drive,

Sacramento, CA 95834 Phone: (916) 263-9000

Frasinetti Winery - 7395 Frasinetti Road, Sacramento, CA 95828

Phone: (916) 383-2444

Fresh and Quick Catering and Grace Vineyards - (No Website) - 5270 Riverside Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95822 Phone: 916-447-3774

Folsom Community Center - 52 Natoma Street, Folsom, CA 95630 Phone: (916) 355-7299

Garden Pavilion - 5640 Dudley Boulevard, McClellan, CA 95652

Phone: (916) 387-8759

Gibson Ranch Park - 8556 Gibson Ranch Road, Elverta, CA, 95626

Phone: (916) 806-3868

Girard Vineyards - 741 Cold Springs Road, Placerville, CA 95667-9312

Phone: (530) 295-1833

Glide Ranch - Davis

Gold Hill Vineyard - 5660 Vineyard Lane, Placerville, CA 95667

Phone: (530)-626-6522

Grace Vineyards - 28001 North Nichols Road, Galt, CA 95632 Phone: (916) 447-3774

Grand Island Mansion - 13415 Grand Island Road, Walnut Grove, CA 95690

Phone: (916) 775-1705

Grand Occasions Chapel & Gardens - 6811 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Carmichael, CA 95608 Phone: (916) 483-6691

Granite Bay Golf Club - 9600 Golf Club Drive, Granite Bay, CA 95746

Phone: (916) 367-4589

Green Valley Country Club - 35 Country Club Drive, Fairfield, CA 94534-1305

Phone: (707) 864-1101

Haggin Oaks Golf Club - 3645 Fulton Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95821

Phone: (916) 481-GOLF

Hanford Ranch Winery - 13200 Loll Road, Galt, CA 95632 Phone: (916) 812-5399

Contact: Melissa Johnson, hanfordranchwinery@gmail.com

Harbison Event Center - 1681 E Monte Vista Avenue, Vacaville, CA 95688

Phone: (707) 447-6000

Harmony Ridge Lodge - 18883 State Highway 20, Nevada City, CA 95959

Phone: (530) 478-0615

Harmony Wynelands - 9291 East Harney Lane, Lodi, CA 95240 Phone: (209) 369-4184

Heidrick Ag History Center - 1962 Hays Lane, Woodland, CA 95776

Phone: (530) 666-9700

Hellenic Community Center - 614 Alhambra Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95816

Phone: (916) 712-2801

Helwig Winery - 11555 Shenandoah Valley Road, Plymouth CA 95669 Phone:

(209) 245.5200

Hilton Sacramento Arden West - 2200 Harvard Street, Sacramento, CA

Phone: (916) 922-4700

Historic Hotel Woodland - 436 Main Street, Woodland, CA 95695 Phone: (530) 662-3213

Historic Oakdale Ranch - Esparto

[Holiday Inn Sacramento](#) - Capitol Plaza - 300 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 446-0100 or Toll Free: 1 (800) 315-2621

[Hotel Léger](#) - 8304 Main Street, Mokelumne Hill, CA 95245 Phone: (209) 286-1401

[Hyatt Regency](#) - 1209 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: (916) 443-1234

[Inn at Park Winters](#) - 27850 County Road 26, Winters, CA 95694 Phone: (530) 669-3692

[International World Peace Rose Gardens](#) - P.O. Box 15919, Sacramento, CA 95852

Phones: (916) 381-5433 (Mr. David) or (916) 395-8303 (Ms. Villalobos)

Location: Downtown Sacramento at State Capitol Park, 15th Street, near L St.,

Hours Open: Daily, sunrise to sunset.

[Ironstone Vineyards](#) - 1894 Six Mile Road, Murphys, CA 95247

Phone: (209) 728-1251

[Jackson Rancheria Casino Resort](#) - 12222 New York Ranch Road, Jackson, CA 95642

Phone: (800)-822 WINN (9466)

[Jibboom Street Park](#) - (Matsui Waterfront Park) For Information: Telephone:

(916) 808-5200 (Department of Parks and Recreation, City of Sacramento 915 I Street,
Fifth Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814)

John Natsoulas Center For The Arts - Davis

[Joyful Ranch](#) - 8212 Pleasants Valley Road, Vacaville, CA 95688-9008

Phone: (707) 448-2288

[Julia Morgan House & Gardens](#) - (No Website) - 3731 T Street, Sacramento, CA 95816

Phone: (916) 227-5527

[Kilaga Springs Lodge](#) - 1167 Sun City Boulevard, Lincoln, CA 95648

Phone: (916) 408-4013

[Kissler Ranch](#) - 15108 Auburn Road, Grass Valley, CA 95949 Phone: (530) 885-5477

[Kobasic's Hall](#) - 5324 Riverside Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95822

Phone: (916) 448-3555

[KVIE Channel 6 Ose Community Room](#) - 2595 Capitol Oaks Drive, Sacramento, CA
95833 Phone: (916) 929-5843

[Laguna Town Hall](#) - 3020 Renwick Avenue, Elk Grove, CA 95758 Phone: (916) 684-7550
or (916) 472-0650

[Lakehills Covenant Church](#) - 7000 Rossmore Lane in El Dorado Hills' Town Center –
(on the hill above the movie theatre). Phone: (916) 939-9300

[La Provence Restaurant and Terrace](#) - 110 Diamond Creek Place, Roseville, CA 95747

Phone: (916) 789-2002

[Lake Natoma Inn](#) - 702 Gold Lake Drive, Folsom, CA 95630 Phones: 1 (800)-808-5253
and (916) 351-1500

Lazy K Ranch – Whitmor

[Le Rivage –Sacramento \(Also Known As Scotts Seafood On The River\)](#)

[Lincoln Oaks Wedding Garden](#) - 2819 McCourtney Road, Lincoln, CA 95648

Phone: (916) 645-1965

[Lincoln Plaza](#) - 400 Q Street, Sacramento, CA 95811 Phone: (916) 795-3600

[Lions Gate Hotel & Conference Center](#) - 3410 Westover Street, North Highlands, CA

95652 (In McClellan Business Park) Phone: (866) 258-5651

[Little Venice Island](#) - 151151 West 8 Mile Road, Stockton, CA 95219 Stockton, CA
Phone: (415) 578-5850

[Local Sacramento Winery's](#) - Most Any Winery will entertain the idea of a wedding.
Please contact the individual winery of your liking. There are just too many to list
all of them here.

[Lodi\Woodbridge Vineyards](#) - Lodi and Woodbridge represents a multitude of wedding
venues. Please locate the maps and wedding venues on the following pages. If you
would like more information, please don't hesitate to call me at (916) 214-3980.

[Long Meadow Ranch and Farmstead Restaurant – St. Helena](#)

[Lucca Restaurant](#) - 1615 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: (916) 669-5300

Ludy's Mainstreet BBQ Restaurant - Woodland

[Maidu Community Center](#) - 1550 Maidu Drive, Roseville, CA 95661

Phone: (916) 774-5950

[Mack Powell Event Center](#) - 2003 Howe Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95825

Phone: (916) 922-7711; events@sacrealtor.org, Sacramento Association of
REALTORS®

[Mankas Corner](#) - 2522 Mankas Corner Rd Suite V, Suisun Valley, CA 94534

Phone: (707) 429-3958 (Also see Blue Victorian & Vezer Family Vineyards)

[Mare Island Historic Park](#) - 10th Street and Walnut Avenue, Vallejo, CA

Phone: (707) 649-8024

[Marriott Hotels](#) - Marriott Hotel offers 5 hotels with wedding planners. They Are:

1. [Residence Inn Sacramento Airport Natomas](#) - 2410 West El Camino Avenue,
Sacramento, CA 95833 Phone: (916) 649-1300 | Toll-Free: 1-888-236-????
2. [Sacramento Marriott Rancho Cordova](#) - 11211 Point East Drive, Rancho Cordova,
CA 95742 Phone: (916)-638-1100 | Toll-Free: 1-888-236-2427
3. [Courtyard Fairfield Napa Valley Area](#) - 1350 Holiday Lane, Fairfield, CA 94534
Phone: 1- (707) 422-4111 | Toll-Free: 1-888-236-2427
4. [SpringHill Suites Napa Valley](#) - 101 Gateway Road East, Napa, CA 94558
Phone: 1 707-253-1900 | Toll-Free: 1-888-236-2427
5. [Napa Valley Marriott Hotel & Spa](#) - 3425 Solano Avenue, Napa, CA 94558
Phone: 1 (707) 253-8600 | Toll-Free: 1-888-236-2427

[Más Cocina Mexica](#) - 1563 Eureka Road, Roseville, CA Phone: (916) 773-3778

[McConnell Estates Winery](#) - 10686 West Stockton Boulevard, Elk Grove, CA 95757

Phone: (916) 685-5368

[McKinley Park Rose Garden](#) - McKinley Park, 601 Alhambra Boulevard, Sacramento,
CA 95816 Phone: (916) 277-6060

[Mettler Family Vineyard](#) - 7889 East Harney Lane, Lodi, CA 95240

Phone: (209) 369-3045

[Micke Grove Regional Park](#) - 11793 North Micke Grove Road, Lodi, CA 95240

Phone: (209) 953-8800 - from Stockton: (209) 391-7400 - from Lodi

Miners Foundry - Nevada City

[Mission Oak Park & Recreation Department](#) - 4701 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael, CA 95608 Phone: (916) 972-0336

[Mission On The Hill](#) - 1300 East Monte Vista, Vacaville, CA 95688
Phone: (707) 455-7530

Mix Downtown – 1525 L Street & 16th Street, Downtown Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 442-8899 or (916) 802-3036

[Monte Verde Inn](#) - 18841 Foresthill Road, Foresthill, CA 95631-9223
Phone: (530) 888-8123

[Morgan Creek Golf & Country Club](#) - 8791 Morgan Creek Lane, Roseville, CA 95747
Phone: (916) 786-GOLF (4653)

[Mt. Vernon Winery](#) - 10850 Mt. Vernon Road, Auburn, CA 95603 Phone: (530) 823-1111

[Napa Valley Vineyards](#) - Napa Valley represents a multitude of wedding venues. Please locate the maps and wedding venues on the following pages. If you would like more information, please don't hesitate to call me at (916) 214-3980.

[Natomas Rose Garden](#) - South Natomas Community Center, 2921 Truxel Road, Sacramento, CA 95833 Phone (916) 808-1571

[Nevada County Fairgrounds](#), 11228 McCourtney Road, Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2687, Grass Valley, California 95945 Phone: (530) 273-6217

[Newcastle Wedding Gardens and Country Inn](#) - 950 Taylor Road, Newcastle, CA
Phone: (916) 663-4553

[Next Door At The B&L](#) - 1215 19th Street, Sacramento, CA 95811 Phone: Restaurant
Reservations: (916) 441-6022 - Catering and Events: (916) 441-1771

[Nicholson Ranch - ???](#)

[Oak Farm Vineyard - Lodi](#)

[Oak Point Events](#) - 4366 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95841
Phone: (916) 971-6255

[Old St. Mary's Chapel](#) - All Denominations Welcome - PO Box 1, (Rocklin Road & Pacific Street), Rocklin, CA 95677 Phone: 916-415-1150

[Old Soul At Weatherstone - Sacramento](#)

[Old Sugar Mill](#) - Post Office Box 123, 35265 Willow Avenue, Clarksburg, CA 95612
Phone: (916) 744-1615

[Opportunity Cruises](#) - Opportunity Cruises departs all cruises from the Stockton Marina, 445 West Weber Avenue, Stockton, CA 95203 Phone: (209) 259-3815 or (916) 600-3815

[Orchard Creek Lodge](#) - 965 Orchard Creek Lane, Lincoln, CA 95648
Phone: (916) 625-4043

[Pagota Events](#) - 429 J St, Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: (916) 443-5724

[Palazzo La Dolce Vita](#) - 5560 Palm Avenue, Sacramento CA 95841
Phone: (916) 331-8888

[Palm Garden Paradise](#) – 8600 Excelsior Road, Elk Grove, CA 95624

Phone: (530) 305-5339 or (916) 599-5370

[Paradise Valley Golf Course](#) - 3950 Paradise Valley Drive, Fairfield, CA 94533

Phone: 707-426-1600

[Park Winters Estate & Gardens](#)- 27850 County Road 26, Winters, CA 95694

Phone: (530) 669-3692

[Pavilion at Elk Grove Park](#) - 9950 Elk Grove Florin Road, Elk Grove, CA 95624

Phone: (916) 405-5600

[Pioneer Congregational United Church of Christ](#) - 2700 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95816

Phone: (916) 443-3727

[Placer Event Center](#) - 4750 Grove Street, Rocklin CA 95677 Phone: (916) 303-7621

[Placerville Shakespeare Club](#) - 2940 Bedford Avenue, P. O. Box 102, Placerville, CA

95667 Phone: (530) 626-0531 (Also see Shakespeare Club)

[Plazzo La Dolce Vita](#) - 5560 Palm Avenue, Sacramento CA 95841 Phone: (916) 331-8888

[Pooja Indian Grill](#) - 1223 Merkley Avenue, West Sacramento, CA 95691 Phone:

(916) 375-8906 Fax: (916) 375-8907 E-mail: info@poojaindiangrill.com

[Power's Mansion Inn](#) - 195 Harrison Avenue, (Main Guest Entrance), Auburn, CA

95603 Phone: (916) 560-0638 (Mansion Receptionist) | (530) 305-5052 (Alfred or Peggy)

[Preston Castle](#) - 900 Palm Drive, Ione, CA 95640 Phone: (209) 256-3623

[R H Phillips Vineyards](#) - 26836 County Road 12A, Esparto, CA 95627

Phone (530) 406-2450 or (530) 406-2445

[Radisson Hotel](#) - Radisson Hotel Sacramento, 500 Leisure Lane, Sacramento, CA 95815

Phone: (916) 922-2020

[RailBridge Cellars Penthouse Lounge](#) -

[Raley Field](#) - 400 Ballpark Drive, West Sacramento, CA 95691 Phone: (916) 376-4700

[Rancho Cicada Retreat](#) - 10001 Bell Road, Plymouth, CA 95669 Phone: (209) 245-4841

Toll-Free: (877) 553-9481

[Rancho Murietta County Club](#) - 7000 Alameda Drive, Rancho Murieta, CA 95683

Phone: (916)354-3400

[Rancho Solano Golf Course](#) - 3250 Rancho Solano Pkwy, Fairfield, Ca.

94533 Phone: (707) 434-1160 (Suzy Silver at Extn: 200)

[Rescue Community Center](#) - 4180 Green Valley Road, Rescue, CA 95672

Phone: (530) 677-9345

[Red Lion Sacramento Inn](#) - 1401 Arden Way, Sacramento, CA 95815

Phone: (916) 922-8041

[Red Man Hall](#) - 5501 Sky Parkway, Sacramento, CA 95823 Phone: (916) 429-2261

(No Web Site)

[River Highlands Ranch And Vineyards](#) - PO Box 266, Smartsville, CA 95977

Phone: (530) 639-1682

[River Mill - Clarksville](#)

[Rizal Community Center](#) - 7320 Florin Mall Drive, Sacramento, CA 95823

Phone: (916) 421-7275

[Rocklin Park Hotel](#) - 5450 China Garden Road, Rocklin, CA 95677 Lobby:

Phone: (916) 630-9400 | Toll Free: 1 (888) 630-9400

[Rudolf Steiner College](#) - 9200 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Fair Oaks, CA 95628

Phone: (916) 961-8727 x141(Rental Information)

[Ryde Hotel & Event Center](#) - 14340 Highway 160 Walnut Grove, CA 95690

Phone: (916) 776-1318 | Toll Free: 1-888-717-RYDE

[Sacramento Community Centers](#) - 915 I Street, Fifth Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814

Department of Parks and Recreation General Information: (916) 808-5200

[Sacramento Convention Center](#) - 1030 15th Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 808-5291

[Sacramento Garden Pavilion](#) - 5640 Dudley Boulevard, Sacramento, CA (McClellan)

95652 Phone: (916) 387-8759

[Sacramento Golf/County Clubs](#) - Most Any Country Club will entertain the idea of a wedding. Please contact the individual Club of your liking. There are just too many to list all of them here.

[Sacramento Grand Ballroom](#) - 629 J Street, Sacramento, CA Phone: (916) 444-2709 or (916) 557-9922 (No Web Site)

[Sacramento Horseman's Association](#) - 3200 Longview Drive, Sacramento, CA 95821

Phone: (916) 470-1337

[Sacramento Marriott Rancho Cordova](#) - 11211 Point East Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA

95742 Phone: (916) 638-1100

[Sacramento Masonic Temple](#) - 1123 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone:

(916) 443-5058

[Sacramento Memorial Auditorium](#) - 1400 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone:

(916) 808-5291

[Sacramento Parks](#) - Most any park will entertain the idea of a wedding. Please contact the individual Park of your choosing. There are just too many to list all of them here.

[Sacramento River Train](#) - 400 North Harbor Boulevard, West Sacramento, CA

95605 Phone: (800) 866-1690

[Scribner Bend Winery & Vineyard](#) - 9051 River Road, Sacramento, CA 95832

Phone: (916) 744-1803

[Sea Nymph Vineyards](#) - 19900 Sherman Island Crossing Road, Sherman Island, CA 94571

Phone: (925) 778-1990

[Sequoia](#) - (Restaurant & Mansion) 643 Bee Street Placerville, CA 95667

Phone: (530) 622-5222

[Serrano Country Club](#) - 5005 Serrano Parkway - El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

Phone: (916) 933-5005

[Shakespeare Club](#) - 2940 Bedford Avenue, P. O. Box 102, Placerville, CA 95667

Phone: (530) 626-0531

[Sheraton Grand Sacramento Hotel](#) - 1230 J Street, 6th and J Street, Sacramento, CA

95814 Phone: (916) 447-1700 | Reservations: 1-866-716-8123

Sierra 2 Center - 2791 24th Street, Sacramento, CA 95818 Phone: (916) 452-3005

Sierra-Arden Ucc - 890 Morse Ave, Sacramento, CA 95864 Phone: (916) 483-5501
(No Web Site)

Sogno Winery - Now is called Ciello Estate - Shingle Springs, CA 95682

Sonrise Event Center - 600 Orange Drive, Vacaville, CA 95687 Phone: (707) 447-1058

Squirrel Creek Ranch - 12971 Squirrel Creek Road, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Phone: (530) 273-4505

St. Joseph's Cultural Center - 410 South Church Street, Grass Valley, CA. 95945

Phone: 530-272-4725

Sterling Hotel - 1300 H Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: (916) 448-1300 (Front Desk) Also look under "Wedgewood At The Sterling".

Stockton Golf and Country Club - 3800 W. Country Club Boulevard, Stockton, Ca 95204

Phone: (209) 466-4313

Stockton Memorial Civic Center - 525 North Center Street, Stockton, CA 95202-1903

Phone: (209) 941-8223

Stockton Parks and Community Centers - Most any Park or Community Center in Stockton will entertain the idea of a wedding. Please contact the individual Park or Center of your liking. There are just too many to list all of them here. Please see this URL for all of Stockton's parks: <http://www.stocktongov.com/files/LegalParks.pdf>.

And see this URL for all of Stockton's Community Centers:

<http://www.stocktongov.com/government/departments/communityServices/rICommCent.html>.

Stockton Waterloo Gun & Bocce Club - 4343 N Ashley Lane, Stockton, CA 95215

Phone: (209) 931-0323

Stone Barn Ranch - ??????

Stone House Bar & Grill - 107 Sacramento Street, Nevada City, Ca 95959

Phone: (530) 265-5050

Strauss Island - 9950 Elk Grove-Florin Road, Elk Grove, CA Phone: (916) 405-5600

Studio 817 - 817 16th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: 916-798-4292

Sun City Lincoln Hills Orchard Creek Lodge - 965 Orchard Creek Lane, Lincoln, CA 95648 Phone: 916-625-4022

Sunrise Event Center - 11167 Trade Center Drive, Suite A, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Phone : (916) 635-2016

Sunset Whitney Golf Country Club - 4201 Midas Avenue, Rocklin, CA 95677

Phone: (916) 624-2926

Sutter Club - 1220 9th Street, Sacramento, CA Phone: (916) 596-6300

Taber Ranch - Capay Valley

The Artisan at Uptown - 1901 Del Paso Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95815

Phone: (916) 425-8559

The Beda Place - 990 Meadow Gate Road, Meadow Vista, CA 95722

Phone: (530) 878-2332

The Center At Twenty-Three Hundred - 2300 Sierra Boulevard, Sacramento, CA. 95825

Phone: (916) 488-4902

[The Citizen Hotel](#) - 926 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: (916) 492-4430
or (800) 916-4339

[The Courtyard Forty Three Sixty](#) - 4360 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento, CA
Phone: (916) 488-4360

[The Crest Theatre](#) – 1013 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 Phones: (916) 442-5939
or (916) 442-5189

[The Davies Family Inn at Shadowridge Ranch](#) - 3700 Fort Jim Road, Placerville, CA
95667 Phone: (530) 295-1000

[The Falls Event Center](#) - 8280 Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove, CA 95758
Phone: (916) 638-9850

[The Heirloom Inn](#) - 214 Shakeley Lane, Ione, CA 95640 Phone: (888) 628-7896 or
Phone: 209 274 4468

[The Lifetime Ranch](#) - Phone: (530) 432-7373 No Address, No Actual City, No Zip

[The Old 5 Mile House - Nevada City](#)

[The Opera House](#) - 560 Main Street, 349 Merchant Street, Vacaville, CA
Phone: (707) 446-4441

[The Pagoda Building](#) - 429 J Street, Sacramento, CA, 95814 Phone: 916-443-5724

[The Reserve at Spanos Park](#) - 6301 West Eight Mile Road, Stockton, CA 95219
Phone: (209) 477-4653 (Golf Course)

[The Ridge Golf Club](#) - 2020 Golf Course Road, Auburn, CA 95602
Phone: (530) 888-7888

[The Roth Estate](#) - Phone: (530) 478-0556, No Address, No City, No Zip Code

[The Sterling Hotel](#) - 1300 H Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: (916) 476-3695

Also see the below at: The Wedgewood Wedding & Banquet Center (Same Place)

[The Sunshine Event Center](#) - 9360 Elk Grove- Florin Road, Elk Grove, CA 95624
Phone: (916) 685-7462

[The Victorian in Roseville](#) - ([The Hemphill Mansion](#)) 315 Washington Boulevard,
Roseville, CA 95678 Phone: (916) 771-8585

[The Wedgewood Wedding & Banquet Center](#) - 1300 H Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 476-3695. Also called (“The Sterling Hotel”) Please see listing under
“The Sterling Hotel”. (Also look under “Wedgewood At The Sterling Hotel).

[The Willow Ballroom](#) - P.O. Box 128, 10724 River Road, Hood, CA 95639
Phone: (916) 548-3511

[Thunder Valley Casino And Resort](#) - 1200 Athens Avenue, Lincoln, CA 95648
Phone: (916) 408-7777 | Toll Free (877) 468-8777

[Timber Creek Golf Course & Club & Ballroom](#) - (Sun City) 7050 Del Webb Boulevard,
Roseville, CA 95747 Phone: (916) 774-3850

[Tower Park Marina & Resort](#) - 14900 West Highway 12, Lodi, CA 95242
Phone: (209) 369-1041

[Tsakopoulos Library Galleria](#) - 828 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 264-2800

Turner Ranch - Sattley

[U.C Davis Arboretum](#) - Garrod Drive, Davis, CA 95616 (530) 752-4880 There are several sites within the Arboretum for weddings. Arrangements are made through Conference and Event Services, Phone: (530) 752-2675

[U.C. Davis – Conference and Event Services](#) – Conference and Event Services, University of California, One Shields Avenue, Davis, CA Phone: (530) 752-2675

[Ulatis Gardens and Community Center](#) - 1000 Ulatis Drive, Vacaville, CA 95687-9499
Phone: (707) 469-4000 or 469-4002

[Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento](#) - 2425 Sierra Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95825 Phone: (916) 483-9283

[University of California Botanical Rentals & Weddings](#) - 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley, CA 94720-5045 Phone: (510) 642-3352 or (510) 643-2755

[Uptown Ballroom](#) - 1925 Del Paso Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95815
Phone: (916) 565-2500 and (916) 595-1122

[University of the Pacific](#) - (Morris Chapel) - 3601 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA 95211
Phone: (209) 946-2538

[Vacaville Community Centers](#) - Most Any Community Center will entertain the idea of a wedding. Please contact the individual Center of your liking. There are just too many to list all of them here.

[Vacaville Parks](#) - Most Any Park will entertain the idea of a wedding. Please contact the individual Park of your liking. There are just too many to list all of them here.

[Viaggio Estate & Winery](#) - 100 E. Taddei Road, Acampo, CA 95220 Phone: 209-368-1378

[Valley Hi Country Club](#) - 9595 Franklin Boulevard, Elk Grove, CA 95758 Main
Reception: (916) 684-2120 or (916) 423-2093

[Vezer Family Vineyard](#) - 2522 Mankas Corner Road, Suite V, Suisun Valley, CA 94534
Phone: (888) 823-8463 or (707) 429-3958 (Also See Blue Victorian & Mankas Corner)

[Victorian at Hemphill Manor](#) - 315 Washington Boulevard, Roseville, CA 95678
Phone: (916) 771-8585

[Victory Park Rose Gargen and Haggin Museum](#) - 1201 North Pershing Avenue, Stockton, CA 95203 Phone: (209) 940-6300

Vierra Farms - 3010 Burrows Ave, West Sacramento, CA 95691 Phone: (916) 849-9450

Villa In The Pines – Phone: (530) 432-4030 No Known Information. Suppose to be a Wedding Venue. No Known Website

Villa Privata Estate - Jackson

[Villa Toscano](#) - 10600 Shenandoah Road, Plymouth, CA 95669 Phone: (209) 245-3800

Villagio Inn & The Vintage Estate - Yountville

Vizcaya - 2019 21st Street, Sacramento, CA. 95818
Phone: (916) 455-5243 or 800-356-2595

Volcano Union Inn - Volcano

[Wackford Complex - Valley Oak Ballroom](#) - 9014 Bruceville Road, Elk Grove, CA 95758

Phone: (916) 405-5600

[Weber Point Event Center](#) - 221 N. Center Street, Stockton, CA 95203

Phone: (209) 937 8206

[Wedgewood at David Girard Vineyards](#) - 741 Cold Springs Road, Placerville, CA 95667

Phone: (530) 295-1833

[Wedgewood At The Sterling Hotel](#) - The Sterling Hotel, 1300 H Street, Sacramento, CA, 95814 Phone: (916) 226-3750

[Wedgewood Sequoia](#) - 643 Bee St, Placerville, CA 95667 Phone: (530) 622-5222

[Whitney Oaks Golf Club](#) - 2305 Clubhouse Drive, Rocklin, CA 95765

Phone: (916) 632-8333

[White Arbor Weddings](#) - (Best Guess Address According To Yelp) - 10375 - 10393

Pleasant Grove School Road, Elk Grove, CA 95624 Phone: (916) 686-0552

patty@whitearborweddings.com

[White House At Passmore Ranch - Sloughouse](#)

[Willow Creek Events](#) - 6841 Marysville Road, Browns Valley, CA 95918

Phone: (530) 742-8089

[Wilson's Vineyard](#) - Business Office, P. O. Box 307, Clarksburg, CA 95612

Business Office Phone: (916) 744-1456

[Winchester Country Club](#) - 3030 Legends Drive, Meadow Vista, CA 95722

Phone: (530) 878-3000

[WindFall Wedding Estates](#) - 13447 American Ranch Road, Grass Valley, CA 95949

Phone: (530) 274-9173 (Web Site Under Construction)

[Windmill Cove Resort & Marina](#) - 7600 Windmill Cove Road, Stockton, CA 95206

Phone: (209) 948-6995

[Wine & Roses \(Hotel - Restaurant & Spa\)](#) - 2505 West Turner Road, Lodi, CA 95242

Phone: (209) 334-6988

[Wisteria Gardens](#) - 9860 Sheldon Road, Elk Grove, CA 95624 Phone: (916) 686-2711

[Woodbridge Golf & Country Club](#) - 800 East Woodbridge Road, Woodbridge, CA

95258-9628 Phone: (209) 334-5454 Fax: (209) 334-6416

[Woodcreek Golf Club](#) - 5880 Woodcreek Oaks Boulevard, Roseville, CA 95747

Phone: (916) 771-4662

World Peace Rose Garden – 15th and L Streets, Sacramento, CA No phone number.

[Yolo Fliers Club](#) - 17980 County Road 94B, Woodland, CA 95695 Phone: (530) 662-0280

Popular Sacramento Wedding Chapels

NOTE: At this point in time, I do NOT know for sure if any of these places still rent out their facilities. I assume that most of them do. (23 October 2016)

[Abundant Life Fellowship](#) - Life Fellowship - 6861 24th Street, Sacramento, CA 95822
Phone: (916) 422-0749

[Fair Oaks Presbyterian](#) - 11427 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Fair Oaks, CA
Phone: (916) 967-4784

[Fair Oaks United Methodist Church](#) - 9849 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Fair Oaks, CA 95628
Phone: (916) 961-6631

[First Baptist Church](#) (Midtown) - 23rd and L Streets, Sacramento, CA
Phone: (916) 443-6534

First Christian Church Churches - 3901 Folsom Boulevard, Sacramento, CA
Phone: (916) 452-7661

[First Presbyterian of Roseville](#) - 515 Sunrise Avenue, Roseville, CA Phone: **(916) ????**

[First United Methodist Church](#) - Address: 2100 J Street, City: Sacramento, CA
Phone: (916) 446-5025

[Fulton-El Camino Rec & Park Recreation Centers](#) (Chapel) - 2201 Cottage Way,
Sacramento, CA 95825-1022 Phone: (916) 927-3802

[Grand Occasions Chapel & Gardens](#) - 6811 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Carmichael, CA
95608 Phone: (916) 483-6691

[Greek Orthodox Church of the Enunciation](#) - 3022 'F' Street, Sacramento, CA
Phone: (916) 443-2033

[Old St. Mary's Chapel](#) - All Denominations Welcome – P.O. Box 1 (Rocklin Road &
Pacific Street), Rocklin, CA 95677 Phone: 916-415-1150

[Pioneer Congregational Church UCC](#) - 2700 'L' Street, Sacramento, CA
Phone: (916) 443-3727

[Saint Andrews United Methodist](#), 6201 Spruce Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95841
Phone: (916) 332-0915

[Sierra-ARDEN](#) – United Church of Christ Churches, 890 Morse Avenue, Sacramento, CA
95864-4999 Phone: (916) 483-5501

[St. John's Lutheran Church](#) - 1701 L Street, Sacramento, CA Phone: (916) 444-0874

[St. Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church](#) - (Tsakopjoulos Hall) - 9165 Peets Street,
Elk Grove, CA 95758 Phone: (916) 803-1139

[To Hong Wedding Shop](#) - (Wedding Chapel) - 6880 65th Street, # 15, Sacramento, CA
Phone: (916) 428-4145

Wayside Wedding Chapel - Phone: (530) 273-6678

[Westminster Presbyterian](#) - 1300 'N' Street, Sacramento, CA Phone: (916) 442-8939

Catholic Ceremony Chapels

[St. John the Baptist](#) - 307 Montrose Drive, Folsom, CA

[St. Elizabeth's](#) - 1817 12th Street, Sacramento, CA Phone: (916) 442-2333

[The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament](#) - 11th and 'K' Streets, Sacramento, CA

Phone: (916) 444-3070

[St. Ignatious](#) - 3235 Arden Way, Sacramento, CA Phone: (916) 482-9666

[St. Joseph's - South River Road, Clarksburg, CA](#)

[St. Mary's](#) - (Giovanni Hall) 1333 58th Street, Sacramento, CA 95819

Phone: (916) 452-0296

[St. Francis - 2529 K Street, Sacramento, CA](#) Phone: (916) 443-8084

[Holy Spirit - 3159 Land Park Drive, Sacramento, CA](#) Phone: (916) 443-5442

[Holy Trinity - 3111 Tierra De Dios \(off Bass Lake Road\), El Dorado Hills, CA](#)

[Sacred Heart - 1040 39th Street, Sacramento, CA](#) Phone: (916) 452-4136

Making Parental Vows To The Children



Your Most Important Promise!

Often marriage is thought of as the joining of two people. In reality, marriage joins many lives. This is most apparent when the bride and/or groom have children. With children present, marriage becomes the proclaiming of a new family. And without a loving commitment to those children, a wedding ceremony is incomplete.

The presentation of a family medallion to a child is just one of many ways of honoring children during a ceremony. Speaking to them on bent knee while presenting the medallion, and assuring your love, gives them peace of mind as well. Their lives change with yours on wedding day. However the presenting of a family medallion or any other token is not a requirement for this option.

In the ceremony proper, a bride and groom take an oath of fidelity to each other (the exchange of vows). A similar oath can be taken with children as well known as a Parental Vow.

Let's say that the groom "Derrick" is marrying "Zenith" who have three children whose names are Derrion, Deshawn and Siarra. In mid-ceremony, after exchanging vows and rings to each other and after the giving of roses to VIPs, I would ask that their children be brought before them.

I would now ask the bride and groom:

Do you Derrick and Zenith:

**Promise To Honor And Protect Peggy and Kathy
And To Provide For Them To The Best Of Your Ability?**

**Do You Promise To Make Their Home A Haven
Where Trust, Love And Laughter Are Abundant?**

**And Do You Make These Promises Freely And From Your Heart
And Vow To Honor Them All The Days Of Your Lives?**

The couple responds together "**We Do**", and embrace their children.

How To Include Your Children Into Your Wedding **(Roles That Children Can Play)**

1. Little kids in pretty dresses and tiny tuxedos are more than cute ornaments. They can (sometimes) be helpful! Depending on their age, level of responsibility and of course willingness, they can:

a. Just before your own vows, you can turn towards your child(ren) and give them a “Welcome” to our family with some token of choice given to them.

b. Include them in a Unity Sand Ceremony.

c. If there are several children; the wedding couple, the bridal party and Officiate all turn toward the children and give a blessing to all of them.

d. Ask guests to sign pages in a scrapbook

e. Walk you down the aisle

f. Hand out wedding programs or directions to the reception

g. Serve as altar boy or altar girl

h. Greet guests

i. Turn pages for the musician

j. Carry the bride's train

k. Hand out flowers to guests or scatter rose petals

l. Help take care of gifts at the reception

m. Junior bridesmaid

n. Take candid pictures of the family and bridal party

o. Follow the photographer around, pointing out special people to photograph

- p. Play a musical instrument or solo
- q. Carry ceremony flowers to reception
- r. Help guests find their seating arrangements
- s. Present wedding favors to guests
- t. Help serve the wedding cake
- u. Be in charge of the guest book

2. For younger children, usually the simple task of holding the rings or bouquet is a big honor and about all they can really handle. Teens can stand up with the couple, play the CD or tape of wedding music, or even just take pictures of the ceremony with a one-time camera. Go with his or her interests.

3. The Invitation to Participate

It is very important if children are coming into the marriage that they be recognized or participate in some part of the wedding ceremony itself. Children often are not able to express fears or doubts they may have. Incorporating the children in the ceremony establishes their important role in your new life together. It may take some time for your child to fully digest and accept your request for their participation. What may be a clear rejection at the beginning may become an enthusiastic acceptance, if given a little time. So provide them the time they need to fully accept the changes before expecting them to embrace a supporting role.

4. Establish the Children as Part of the Union

When a parent gets married, it's not just a couple that is joining together; a family is being forged. The children are an integral part of that equation, and they need to have their importance reinforced. Use their names right in the ceremony, or even incorporate them into your vows. It is also appropriate to mention them in any prayers said during the service. Have them front and center when the officiate introduces the new husband and wife. You can even have them sign the papers with you!

5. If a unity candle is part of your plan, make it a Family Candle instead. Give them all a chance to light the candles.

6. If you choose to present roses as part of the ceremony, it's a nice touch to have a rose for each of the children. After exchanging roses, you can give each child a rose. If your

doing a simple ring exchange, perhaps give the children a small jewelry-type gift immediately following the ring exchange - a necklace, medallion or ring.

7. When children are coming into the marriage, it is appropriate to mention in the ceremony that not only is a marriage being formed, but also a family - and then we name each child.

8. After the Ceremony

The ceremony is a whirlwind of carefully planned events, with thought going into every aspect. You've taken such care to weave your children in the fabric of that day and make them an important part of it. Just after the ceremony, most children do not know what they are supposed to do. Adults tend to flock around the couple in congratulations, leaving the children to feel out of place and awkward. So take a moment to thank them for their help in the ceremony, and giving them some direction about what they are free to do. Just a few moments here will mean the world to a little one.

9. Flower Girls and Ring Bearers

Generally speaking, flower girls and ring bearers are between three and seven years of age. The younger they are, the more unpredictable their behavior will be. If the child is old enough to walk up the aisle and be relatively well behaved throughout what will appear to him to be a relatively long time, then he's old enough. It really depends on the personality of the child.

10. Older Children

Children who are eager to participate in the wedding ceremony can be bridesmaids, junior bridesmaids and ushers. Old rules don't apply here, so make your own. If you'd like your daughter to be your Maid of Honor and she's game, then do it! A ten-year old son can stand up as an honor attendant (in place of a bridesmaid) on the bride's side of the wedding party. Mix up the rules, and make them work for you!

11. Wedding Preparation

The ceremony shouldn't be the first time that you're making this a group event. You can begin incorporating them from the start. That's not to say that you're 4 year old needs to pick your wedding dress. But asking for their input on things like colors, food and decoration would give them an opportunity to have input and take some ownership in the event. Give them options about what they will wear. Perhaps use their favorite flowers.

12. At the Reception

Some kids get easily embarrassed, so you have to play by ear how much you want to spotlight them at a party. But a toast in their honor would be a delightful way to welcome them to their new family. Even do a Mom and Dad dance instead of the traditional First Dance.

13. The ideas are endless, and the rules are all flexible. So depending on the age of your children and their personalities, go with what makes you comfortable. Just don't lose them in the shuffle!

14. If appropriate, have your children say your vows to you instead of the Officiate!

15. Include them in a Rose Ceremony: Adding a part for children.

If a couple is adding the "Rose Ceremony", often they will have a rose for each of the children. After exchanging roses, the couple will then give each child a rose, a hug, and whisper, "I love you." "Not only are _____ and _____ creating a marriage today, but they also are forming a family with (child/children's name(s)). Just as it is appropriate for _____ and _____ to declare their love for each other in the gift of a rose, they also wish to show you (to the children) how much they love you with the gift of a rose."

16. Include your children into almost any of your Unity Ceremonies. E.g., Sand ceremony, Holy Oils, Butterfly, balloons, Horse and Buggy, etc.

How Do You Decide Whom To Marry?

(Written by Darling Kids)

1. You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming.

-- Alan, age 10

...

-No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with.

-- Kristen, age 10

2. WHAT IS THE RIGHT AGE TO GET MARRIED?

Twenty-three is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then..

-- Camille, age 10

3. HOW CAN A STRANGER TELL IF TWO PEOPLE ARE MARRIED?

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids.

-- Derrick, age 8

4. WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR MOM AND DAD HAVE IN COMMON?

Both don't want any more kids.

-- Lori, age 8

5. WHAT DO MOST PEOPLE DO ON A DATE?

-Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough.

-- Lynnette, age 8 (isn't she a treasure)

-On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date.

-- Martin, age 10

6. WHEN IS IT OKAY TO KISS SOMEONE?

-When they're rich.

-- Pam, age 7 (Love her)

-The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that.

-- Curt, age 7

-The rule goes like this: If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's the right thing to do.

-- Howard, age 8

7. IS IT BETTER TO BE SINGLE OR MARRIED?

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them.

-- Anita, age 9 (bless you child)

8. HOW WOULD THE WORLD BE DIFFERENT IF PEOPLE DIDN'T GET MARRIED?

There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there?

-- Kelvin, age 8

And the #1 Favourite is

9. HOW WOULD YOU MAKE A MARRIAGE WORK?

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a dump truck.

-- Ricky, age 10

What do you think? Can I offer it as a reading LOL!

Involving Parents In The Ceremony

Mother of the bride - a reading for her daughter:

(Saying Brides name), I like to think that you learned from me that some things are important. Commitment, love, loyalty, "being there" are at the center of everything. I tried my best to teach you, by example, that life is very complex, that there are no final solutions, there is only commitment to the search for quality and genuineness.

I taught you to value human relationships, to run away from bigotry and to expose it when you find it. I taught you to believe in the value of books, to respect education and learning, to admire goodness, integrity and wisdom. Let's not forget humor. Above all, perhaps, I taught you by example that a thoughtful and examined life requires difficult choices; that there are, for such a life, no instant fixes.

We live in a society which sells trivial answers for every complex human dilemma. In our household, from our example, you were able to draw on a different set of strengths, not available in the ambient society of your growing up. I see all of these strengths in your life now. You have become the kind of woman I dreamed of raising.

Thanking your parents

Parents Rose Ceremony:

Marriage is a coming together of two lives, and a celebration of the love of two people. But it is more. The love that you feel for one another is the flowering of a seed your mothers planted in your hearts many years ago. When you were first born, you were a bundle of diapers and tears, and your mothers lost sleep caring for you. Their love for you has brought them great happiness and great challenges, and their love did not diminish as they met these challenges. That is the great lesson you can bring into your marriage. As you embrace one another in your love, so too do you embrace the families which have been brought together on this happy occasion. As a token of your gratitude for your families, I would like to ask you to offer these symbols of eternal love, these roses, to your mothers. (Both bride and groom can hand the roses to each mother together, offering the mothers kisses if they wish.)

Parents Blessing (instead of who gives this woman etc)

This occasion is a special celebration for you parents who have brought these children into the world, and nurtured them into adulthood. Today you are witnessing another stage in the lives of your son and daughter. Your continuing support and encouragement will be needed as Mary and Rob unite in marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Smith and Mr. and Mrs. Jones, will you try with the greatest love and wisdom you can command, support this new couple and help in every way?

The Parent's Blessing (alternate to who gives this woman etc)

Will [Mother of the Bride] and [Father of the Bride] and [Mother of the Groom] and [Father of the Groom] please stand?

As our sons and daughters find partners and find homes for the next generation, each family is enriched and enlarged. Do you, who have nurtured these two, bestow your blessing on their union and their family? (answer: yes)

Address to Parents

As our sons and daughters find partners and find homes for the next generation, each family is enriched and enlarged. Would the parents of the bride and groom please stand.

This occasion is a special celebration for you, the parents who have brought these children into the world, and nurtured them into adulthood. Today you are witnessing another stage in the lives of your son and daughter. Your continuing support and encouragement will be needed as _____ and _____ unite in marriage. Will you who have loved and nurtured these two, try with the greatest love and wisdom you have, to support this new couple and help in every way? (answer: yes)

Grandparents As Ring Bearers And Flower Girls



A New Role For Grandparents

Aren't they adorable! And these grandparents (maybe great grandparents?) stole the show.

Let's be honest, there's just not a lot of difference between '8' and '80.' Just a zero; and what's a zero among friends? Some ring bearers and flower girls happen to be eight; these just happen to be in their eighties. The only difference is that little zero. What's the big deal?

Think of the experience they'll bring! Think of how happy they'll be that you thought of them, and invited them to actually participate in your wedding. Think of the light hearted laughter they'll bring the start of your ceremony.

All you have to do is ask!

Top Twenty Wedding Day Stress Busters

You've been planning and dreaming of your wedding day most of your life! But now that it is here, there are butterflies in your stomach. Let me share a few strategies for turning your wedding day stress into wedding day bliss. Just remember, the only thing that really matters at the end of the day, is the fact that you are married to the one you love!

1. First of all, a relaxed bride is a beautiful bride so try to focus on getting good rest prior to the wedding day. The day will in and of itself be hectic. You don't need to add to the stress by being tired. You want to have fun and enjoy this most important day
2. Keep track of all of your important documents by keeping them together in one envelope. Use the front of the envelope to chart the contents.
3. If you are traveling abroad make sure you have all your identification and your passport, boarding pass, etc., somewhere where they will be safe and handy when you get ready to leave for your honeymoon. I generally keep everything in a pocket of my carry-on.
4. Don't try packing for your honeymoon on the morning of your wedding! You will have too many other things to take care of. Take time in the days prior to your wedding to get things in order.
5. Write up a reasonable time plan for what should be happening prior to the wedding and approximately when. Be flexible and leave plenty of leeway so that if the hair appointment runs long it doesn't turn into a crisis.
6. Most suppliers and service providers wouldn't dream of letting you down. Our reputation and your wedding would both be compromised. However, feel free to call your vendors and suppliers a few days ahead of the wedding so there are no last minute mix-ups or delays. Make a list of who is coming and when, photographer, florist, officiate, etc. Knowing what coming next will is eliminates last minute concerns.



7. Make a list for your photographer of who you want in certain photos and save yourself from being questioned about details.
8. Eat something light like toast and tea, fruit or yogurt the morning of the Big Day! No one wants to pass out at the altar. It's a long day and a bite of food will settle your nerves as well.
9. Stay away from alcohol and salty snacks aside from perhaps a celebratory glass of champagne. Drinking may take the edge off but will make you feel worse in the long run, especially if you haven't eaten much.
10. Alcohol and salty snacks can cause your fingers to swell making it difficult to slide your wedding rings on. (To make sure rings slide on easily wash them in soapy water prior to the ceremony). If you find that your rings do not go on easily, don't force them. Just slide them as far as they will go and fake it. No one will notice.
11. Don't hesitate to get outside, go for a walk or a jog, whatever you want to shake off the nerves and get some fresh air.
12. Create your makeup kit before the wedding day and have everything you may need together in one place, including hair spray, deodorant, needle and thread, extra pantyhose and nail polish for unexpected runs and a pair of slippers to wear at the reception.
13. Assign your Maid of Honor or a Bridesmaid to keep check on your appearance so she can alert you if you need a touch up or something put back in place.
14. More people surrounding you create more opportunities for chaos or panic. Choose friends and relatives that you want to have nearby for support, which will keep others at bay and have a calming influence and not get themselves or you wound up. Delegate. Assign someone to answer your phone. You need to be able to enjoy yourself and relax, not be bothered with every detail.
15. Good posture is the foundation of good comportment. Not only will you walk, sit and generally move more gracefully when your body is in alignment but you will appear to glide down the aisle as the wedding goddess you are! Think of a string attached to your spine, holding you in alignment yet allowing your shoulders and arms to relax.
16. One of the best tips I can give the couple is to breathe. Practice taking long deep breaths. Short ones will make you dizzy and lightheaded. Especially good times to stop and take some deep breathes are just prior your processional down the aisle and once you reach the altar. As your officiate begins speaking take a couple nice deep breathes and relax, look at your future spouse and connect to one another. Be

in the moment and let the rest of the world go. Enjoy this place you have come to in your hearts.

17. Let someone else know if you have concerns about Aunt Betty getting up the steps or pregnant Cousin Jill standing too long. Ask individuals to address these concerns and look out for your infirm guests. Again, delegate.
18. Try not to worry if the band is late setting up or if the first dance doesn't begin exactly on time. Don't get excited if things take a little longer than expected. You will only upset yourself if you do. Relax. Everyone will be having a good time and it doesn't matter. The day will turn out fine if you stay calm, happy and go with the flow. Make every memory from this day joyful and peaceful. If the ceremony or other items are going to be more than 10 minutes late, please inform your guests.
19. Remember that everything at the reception venue will have to be taken home and/or returned to the proper venue. Think about who will do this for you and make arrangements in advance. Remember gifts, cards, guest books, cameras, leftover cake, props, candle holders, etc. Again, delegate.
20. Take a time out from the reception. Share a few intimate moments. Slip outside for a few minutes or find a quiet corner to escape to together and just sit for a little while, connect, and gather your thoughts.

PLEASE SEE MANUAL #5 for more Stress Releases

CHOOSING MUSIC FOR THE WEDDING

Irish Wedding Irish Melody

8^{va}
Both hands, second time only

Piano

The musical score is divided into four systems. The first system (measures 1-4) includes fingerings: 1 2 3 1 and 3 1. The second system (measures 5-8) includes fingerings: 3 1, 3, and 2 - 3. The third system (measures 9-12) is marked 'LH 2 over' and 'LH over' at the beginning and end. The fourth system (measures 13-16) continues the piano accompaniment.

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Please See Manual #31 For more information on DJ's and wedding music.

The Use Of Music In A Wedding Ceremony



Art In The Key Of Marriage

You certainly can use "wedding music" if you like for your ceremony; many brides have their hearts set on it and will use no other. But far more don't use it, and being that music is just as much an art form as a wedding dress, the choice of that music, just like the choice of your dress or tux,- will say a lot about you.

You have over six decades of music to choose from, almost all of which is on compact disc for your DJ, or performable by your musicians. And if you choose not to go with traditional wedding music, then choose something from the genre that you like most. I have heard all forms of music from Jazz, Rock, Blues, Hip Hop, Swing, Classical, Blue Grass, Folk, New Age and Country played during my ceremonies. All of those brides and grooms got high marks for saving us from the predictable "cliche" music like "Taco Bell Cannon in D" that is so often played during wedding ceremonies. What kind of music should you play during your ceremony? The kind you set your station to on your Friday afternoon drive home from work. Your ceremony's music needs to be you!

You may need up to seven songs or "themes" for my ceremony:

1. For the **Entrance of the Bridal Party.**
2. The **Bride's Entrance.**

3. For your **Unity Candle** (or **Wine Sharing**, or **Sand Ceremony** or **Blessing Tree** etc.) followed by the **Giving of Roses to VIPs**. Remember: this is one song for both events and not two.

4. Your **Recessional Walk** through your guests as they line center aisle and applaud you or blow bubbles etc at the ceremony's conclusion.

Your DJ, or your musicians are the ones to ask in helping you pick just the right music for your ceremony.

Choosing The Music For Your Wedding Ceremony

By: Reverend Steve Whitters

Created On: 17 July 2012

If you are like most brides and grooms, the music that will be played during your wedding ceremony is very important to you -- but you may not have a clue how to go about selecting it! Here are some guidelines for American weddings (customs vary in other countries).

An important factor in choosing your music is the setting for your wedding ceremony. If your ceremony will not be in a religious setting, you can choose just about any kind of music you like -- although you will want to stay within the bounds of good taste! On the other hand, if your ceremony will be in a church or synagogue, or conducted by a clergy person at another location, you will probably need to stay within guidelines set by the clergy person or the church.

Most religious denominations consider a wedding ceremony to be a form of worship service. For this reason, churches generally do not allow "secular" music (non-religious popular music) during a wedding. Some will allow secular music while the guests are being seated, but not during the ceremony itself. Check with the church where your wedding will be held for its specific guidelines.

How religious do the lyrics of a song have to be for a church wedding? Songs that make respectful reference to God (or to Jesus or the Holy Spirit in Christian churches) are almost certain to be acceptable. Many churches will also allow a song that does not make specific reference to a deity, as long as it focuses on religious ideals and values relating to love and marriage, such as faithfulness and mutual support.

A good starting point for selecting your ceremony music is to meet with the church organist or pianist. This person will probably be happy to play various pieces for you that can be used for the processional and the recessional. You may be allowed to select one piece for the processional where the bridal party enters, and another for the bride's processional. (If you can afford it, you might consider having a string quartet play your processional and recessional, as well as music during the seating of your guests.)

Most weddings include a vocal soloist singing anywhere from one to four selections during the wedding ceremony -- usually accompanied by piano, guitar or harp. A duet sung by a male-female vocal duo is often used instead of a solo, and can be very effective! You will probably need to hire live vocalist(s); many churches do not allow recorded music in wedding ceremonies, except perhaps recorded accompaniment for a live vocalist.

Appropriate places in the ceremony for vocal selections, depending on church guidelines, may include: (1) during the seating of the mothers or lighting of candles by the mothers; (2) immediately before the processional; (3) before the vows; (4) during the lighting of the Unity Candle; and (5) during the serving of communion to the congregation, if this is included in the ceremony.

Vocal music is probably the aspect of your wedding music selection where you will want to have the most personal involvement, since the songs include lyrics and you will want them to be especially meaningful for you. Where can you find songs with just the right lyrics that will be acceptable in a church setting? And preferably something you haven't heard at a hundred other weddings?

First, ask your vocalist or accompanist for suggestions. Have them show you their sheet music for the songs they suggest, and when you find one with lyrics you like, have them play or sing that song for you.

Before deciding whether the songs suggested by your musicians are really what you want, you should go to a store that sells sheet music and songbooks and browse in the wedding section. (Look for printed music rather than recorded music, as your musicians will probably need printed music to work from.) Chances are, you will find something that more closely expresses what you want to say than the songs suggested by your musicians. If you don't live near a store that sells sheet music and songbooks, or if you just prefer shopping on the Internet, take a look at the Truly Yours Music website, www.truly-yours.com.

Another option is to hire a composer/songwriter to write a special song for your wedding ceremony. There are several websites where these services are offered. Be sure to give the songwriter plenty of advance time before your wedding to complete the song.

I hope the suggestions I've provided here will help you find just the right music for your special day.

***How Many Songs Are Usually Played During The Ceremony?**

1. A ceremony is usually broken down into six segments, each with its own musical requirements. However, this is your wedding; you can have seven or more, or none at all. In fact, most “Justice of Peace” weddings have no music.

2. Prelude: These songs provide background music while the guests are seated. Be prepared to provide enough songs to last fifteen to twenty minutes.

3. Wedding Party’s Processional: This slow song sets the tempo for the bridal party’s walk down the aisle. Pachelbel’s “Canon in D” is a popular choice.

4. Bride’s Processional: Wagner’s “Here Comes the Bride” used to be the standard selection. However, more and more brides are choosing songs that hold special meaning to them.

5. Interlude: This song (or songs) is played at various points during the ceremony, such as when the couple is lighting the unity candle.

6. Recessional: At the end of the ceremony, the bride and groom kiss and walk up the aisle as the wedding party follows. The song should be joyful and celebratory.

7. Postlude: This ten- to twenty-minute period includes upbeat songs that are played as the guests leave the ceremony.



8. Very often the music for a wedding ceremony is played on an organ. Sometimes a choir also sings. Talk to your officiate to find out the details for your wedding ceremony site. Some songs that are played at weddings as the bride walks down the aisle are:

- Mendelssohn’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” (Played for Queen Victoria’s wedding) • Handel’s “Processional” in g major

- “Here Comes the Bride” (bridal chorus) The music for the ceremony usually is played in this order:

- Prelude Guests start arriving and are seated until the mother of the bride is seated. The prelude entertains guests while they wait for the ceremony to start.

- Processional Starts to play when the mother of the bride is seated

- Ceremony music

- Small piece during the lighting of the unity candle (if appropriate)
- Communion Music (if appropriate)
- Recessional

9. I have most weddings songs on CD's for your use. If you would like to copy these CD's for yourself, please ask.

What To Ask Your Wedding Musicians Or DeeJay

A good band is hard to find. Here's what to ask when interviewing.



1. When and where can we see you perform live?

The band or deeJay should invite you to a club date or schedule a mini performance of three to four songs for a small audience.

2. Can you supply us with a videotape or audiotape? Is it recorded live or produced? Is the sound technically enhanced?

A seasoned band should be able to provide both an audio CD and a live DVD. While the sound may be somewhat electronically enhanced, it generally doesn't cross the line into misrepresenting the band's sound. Ask the band if it has a site on www.myspace.com, where you can hear it live.

3. Can you play any song we want, regardless of your style?

Presumably, you've chosen a deeJay or a band that stylistically suits your musical taste. It should be able to provide you with a set list of up to 100 songs for review. You can request songs off the playlist as most bands are willing to learn up to five new tunes for the occasion.

4. How many musicians are in the band? Is there a vocalist? Is this negotiable?

A typical wedding band has a core group of five members— drums, bass, guitar, keyboards, and vocals. Depending on your needs and expectations, the band can expand by adding

more vocalists and, in some cases, a horn section. Keep in mind that the more players you hire, the more expensive the band will be.

5. Do we need to rent any instruments? Amplifiers? Supply chairs or music stands? Are these costs included in your quoted fee?

These costs are typically absorbed by the band and should be included in the quoted fee.

6. Does the band use recorded music? (Recorded material is sometimes mixed with live music to achieve a “bigger band” sound.)

Combining taped and live sound saves money and is not uncommon. For you, this is a matter of preference and budget.

7. How large a room does your sound system accommodate?

A standard band generally has a sound system that can fill a room the size of a large banquet hall.

8. Can the bandleader or deejay act as master of ceremonies?

If the bandleader isn't charismatic, he or she may hire an emcee for this role and include it as an overall expense that can be negotiated before signing the contract.

9. Who will set up and at what time?

Bands and deejays generally set up their equipment 1 1/2 to 2 hours ahead of time.

10. Will you agree to a dress code?

If you insist that the band or the deejay follows a dress code, deal with this during the initial meeting. If they balk, don't hire them.

11. How many breaks do you require?

A typical arrangement consists of three 45-minute sets with 15-minute breaks between sets.

12. Are you insured?

If yes, ask that the musicians show you a certificate of liability insurance.

13. Will you play overtime? What is the fee?

Most bands and deejays will agree to play overtime for a fee, which should be outlined in the contract. This fee varies from region to region but could be as high as \$100 per band member per hour.

14. Do you personally check out the electronics and the acoustics at the venue?

A good band or deejay will scout the space before the reception to make sure all the proper equipment for achieving good sound is in place.

15. What size are the speakers and can they be camouflaged?

Most musicians bristle at covering up fairly large speakers (about the size of a watermelon) because it interferes with the sound. But they may agree to drape thin fabric over them. If you are concerned about the size of the speakers and their placement, ask to see them, than work with the musicians to come up with a solution that suits you both.

16. Are you equipped to play CDs guests bring along?

Most deejays are equipped to play guests' recordings. If this is important to you, find out from the deejay right away. A band, on the other hand, is generally not set up to play CDs, but some bring an MP3 player loaded with music to play during breaks.

17. What is your cancellation policy?

This will vary from band to band and deejay to deejay, but generally one month is the least amount of notification to which they will agree. The terms of cancellation and a payment schedule should be spelled out in the contract. Most require a nonrefundable deposit plus up to half the total fee.

Blessed Are The Cheesemakers

(DJ's, Public Address (PA) Systems or Boom Boxes)

In the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy books by Douglas Adams, **Almighty God** appears on another planet and personally sends forth a prophet to spread His Word. The chosen one is devout and charismatic.

And also bit hard of hearing. In a few short years, people all across the planet were hearing the sacred words of **Almighty Bob**.

In a Monty Python comedy about biblical times, people at the back of a crowd were having trouble hearing the "Sermon on the Mount", when one fellow at the back says to the others, 'I THINK he said, "Blessed are the Cheese Makers!'

Let's face it, sometimes you can be too far away to hear what's being said. Many folks (like me) have partial hearing loss.

What do you do if you have more than 20 people, or people with partial hearing loss at your wedding?

Simple.

A:) Find an officiant who can speak very loudly.

B:) Find an officiant who can yell really well.

C:) Find an officiant with a PA system.

I am blessed with a strong voice and can speak, sing, or bellow like a drill instructor when necessary. And **I have a battery operated PA system**.

What do you do if your site doesn't have power to plug things in?

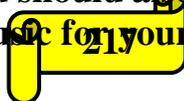
A & B above, OR

D:) Find an officiant with a portable, battery operated PA system.

Did I mention that **I have a battery operated PA system?**

It's a portable, battery operated, high powered amp with a quality multi range speaker for voice or music. At 20 watts, this unit is three times more powerful than a pistol-grip bullhorn, but with far better sound.

Note: due to the new copyright laws regarding Music, we are no longer able to provide music for your ceremony. You should also find out if your DJ, Band, or venue has paid for the rights to use music for your Wedding and reception.



There is a \$25.00 fee if you need me to use my equipment at a site with power. This fee may be waived at my option.

There is a \$35.00 fee if you need me to use my equipment at a site without power. The equipment uses a LOT of batteries.

Note about using portable equipment outdoors:

I do a lot of camping and take my music with me. There are some conditions when CD players just won't work. In my experience, this is usually due to extreme humidity, and especially bad when there is heavy rain, dew or fog.

I will make every effort to ensure that all equipment is maintained and in good working order when I leave my home, and is transported safely. All batteries will be tested and/or replaced prior to your ceremony.

I cannot guarantee the functionality of any equipment under open air (pavilions, gazebos, etc.) and/or harsh conditions.

There is a **non-refundable** \$15.00 equipment setup fee included in the equipment fee. If for any reason my equipment fails to function, a FULL refund of monies shall be due to you.

The Last Supper

1. Relax, the planning has been completed: the location secured, the catering arranged, the dress and suit tailored to your specifications for tomorrow's ceremony. All that's left now is the rehearsal dinner.
2. Once the rehearsal is complete, it is time to go to the rehearsal dinner and party if asked to attend. Unless the couple insist, it is not mandatory that I attend the dinner. I can bless the food and provide a blessing for the couple, then take a leave of absence until the following day. It saves them money and lets them be the "Talk of the town".
3. Let someone else host the rehearsal dinner. This will be your final meal as an unmarried couple.
4. Rehearsal dinners often serve as an icebreaker for the guests and relatives of both bride and groom allowing all parties to get to know one another so that everyone is comfortable come the day of the wedding. They also provide the couple of honor an opportunity to say thanks to their families and friends.
5. But, the dinner doesn't need to be a stressful formal affair. Whether it's a spacious banquet room for all your relatives or a cozy nook for sharing an intimate meal with loved ones, the Valley abounds with plenty of suitable venues for your special occasion.
6. The wedding rehearsal dinner should immediately follow the wedding rehearsal ceremony. Very often this dinner is held at a nearby restaurant. The wedding attendants, parents of the bride and groom, and officiate must be invited. If you have some additional room you should invite grandparents, out of town guests, honored guests and godparents. The rehearsal dinner should be kept on the small side. Consider having an informal rehearsal dinner and invite all the out-of-town guests because many of them arrive a day or two early.

***Wedding Theme Samples**

1. If your wedding is going to have a theme, be sure you include your Officiate in the Theme so he/she can dress accordingly, and suggest appropriate role play acting. By no means is the below list completed.

Please see manuals #46 - 50 for more wedding themes.

1920's Wedding Theme
50's, 60's and Disco
Alice Cooper
Alice In Wonderland Wedding Theme
Angel Wedding Theme
Asian Wedding Theme
Autumn/Fall Wedding Theme
Beach Party
Beach Wedding Theme
Black And White Wedding Theme
Bluez Brotherz
Bond
Butterfly Wedding Theme
Calla Lily Wedding
Camelot
Celtic Wedding
Cherry Blossom Theme
Christmas Wedding Theme
Cinderella Wedding Theme
Classic Double Heart Theme
Cruise Ship Wedding Theme
Daisy Wedding Theme
Disney Wedding Theme
Dolphin Wedding Theme
Dreamsicles Wedding
Egyptian
Elvis Blue Hawaii
Elvis Wedding Theme
Fairy Tale Wedding Theme
Fall Wedding Theme
Feather/Maribou Theme
Fleur De Lis Wedding Theme
Flower Girl Items
Gangster

Golf Wedding Theme
Gothic
Gothic Rock
Graveyard
Halloween Wedding Theme
Harley
Hawaiian Wedding Theme
Heart Theme
Irish Wedding Theme
Hollywood Starlet
Intergalactic
Italian Wedding Theme
Kim Anderson Wedding
Las Vegas Wedding Theme
Las Vegas Wedding Theme
Lavender Floral Theme
Liberace
Lily of the Valley Theme
Linked at the Heart Theme
Love Bird Theme
Mardi Gras Wedding Theme
Marry My Friend Theme
Medieval Theme
Monogram Wedding Theme
Moroccan Wedding Theme
Motorcycle Wedding
November Wedding Theme
Outdoor Wedding Theme
Perfect Pair Themes
Pirate Wedding Theme
Phantom
Pink Caddy Wedding
Pirate
Red Rose Theme
Rock And Roll Wedding Theme
Red Wedding Theme
Rock-a-Billy
Rocky's Horror Wedding
Rose Wedding Theme
Royalty Wedding Theme
Seashell Wedding Theme
Shower Wedding Theme

Spring Wedding Theme
Star Wars
Star Wedding Theme
Summer Wedding Theme
Swan And Heart Wedding Theme
Sweethearts Theme
Tiffany Wedding Theme
The Tomb
The Viva Tango Wedding
Tulips Wedding Theme
Valentine's Wedding Theme
Victorian Wedding Theme
Viva du Cirque
Wassup Pussycat
Western
Western/Cowboy Wedding Theme
When Vampire's Fly
Wine Wedding Theme
Wings of Love Theme
Winter Wedding Theme
Winter Wonder Land Theme
Woodstock

Religious And Philosophical Expression

The Inclusion of Spirit and Thought

"To thine own self be true." Shakespeare's advice on personal authenticity could have just as easily been written for couples contemplating the design of their wedding ceremonies. This is especially true when it comes to philosophical and religious content.

As you may be considering me for the performance of your wedding ceremony, my disposition on this very important topic may be of interest to you. Please accept the following:

Religious and philosophical expression in my ceremonies will always be optional. You may be devoutly religious or you may not be a participant in religion. I place no requirements on you; that's not my turf. I design, rehearse and perform beautiful wedding ceremonies. Sometimes religious and philosophical expression play a major part of those ceremonies, and just as many other times they don't. Only my couples decide if this aspect will be present in their ceremonies.

In the twenty years I have been officiating throughout Iowa and Sacramento, I have worked for every religious denomination under the sun. And I enjoyed working for all of them. I have been, and always will be, very supportive of each couple's desire to include, or withhold, this identity.

In designing your ceremony, you really cannot and should not ignore the hopes of others—namely your parents or families. They too may have expectations of your ceremony, and you, or your spouse to be, may have very different views on this than they do. Maybe your families are of very different religions? Maybe the groom's side is devout Lutheran, and the bride's side are flaming atheists. Now what?

The answers involve accommodation and diplomacy. Yes, you can pull rank. After all you're the bride and groom, and frankly, it's your wedding isn't it? But if you throw your weight around like that with your wedding ceremony, and ignore your loved ones, you may find that it takes twenty years to undo the ill feelings you caused during your wedding ceremony. Do you really want that?

Together, we'll create a ceremony that treats everyone, excludes no one, and rewards all who've attended. To this end I will use my skills and experience in helping you resolve these issues by finding the right ceremonial expression. I've been doing it for decades. We'll design your ceremony so that it's true to you both, and respects the hopes of others.

Religion and philosophy are wonderful expressions of the human experience. If they are used, let them enhance your ceremony and not detract from it.

Be smart, be considerate, and find common ground. I'll help you find just the right wording and ceremony options for your wedding.

To God Or Not To God

(Denominational, Non-Denominational, Non-Religious Ceremonies)

Many Brides and Grooms ask ...

Question:

Can you perform both Non-Denominational and Non-Religious Ceremonies?

Answer:

Absolutely, I do most all types of weddings.

Question:

What is the difference between them?

Answer:

A Non-Denominational ceremony can be just that. It celebrates no specific religious following such as Catholic or Christian or Jewish etc. It can simply be a general belief in a higher power and it can include general blessings and/or passages.

A Non-Religious ceremony celebrates the spirituality of the love between a Bride and Groom without invoking any religion into the ceremony. It can contain readings of love and commitment.

Which one is right for you is YOUR decision.

If you want God mentioned in your Ceremony just ask and we will create a ceremony based on your requirements and your level of belief.

If you prefer a more spiritual and loving Ceremony with no religious overtones we can do that too.

All the ceremonies on my site can be altered to provide you with the elements YOU require in your ceremony.

NO WEDDING OFFICIANT SHOULD EVER TELL YOU WHAT YOU MUST OR MUST NOT HAVE IN YOUR CEREMONY. If they do, get another officiate.

It's YOUR ceremony and it can have anything YOU want in it. From the simple civil ceremony to the extravagant affair. It is YOUR special day and YOU should dictate the approach you want the Officiate to take.

I believe that wedding ceremonies should reflect ONLY YOUR religious or non-religious preferences, not mine.

The final decision of “To God or Not To God” rests solely with you.

***Wedding Ceremony Order**

1. This is a sample order of service for Secular, Non-denominational Christian and Interfaith Weddings. A very short ceremony can be created by omitting all of the optional elements. Your creativity is limited only by your imagination!
2. Below is a listing of the normal ceremony order of things to come. If you opt to leave out a sequence, please draw a line through it, so that we know not to include it into your ceremony.
3. Many Sacramento area couples have used this as a typical order of events for a wedding ceremony.
4. Since it is your wedding, you should feel free to add, drop, or alter the sequence of these events.
5. When I meet with couples to plan their wedding, we discuss many of the options available to them.
6. This makes a ceremony that is custom and personal, uniquely theirs, and according to their wishes.
7. It has only been comparatively recent in history that couples have been "allowed" to design their own wedding ceremony within a church setting. For your reference, you may want to look at the classic "[Anglican Wedding Ceremony](#)" [from 1662](#) (which was widely followed until about WW II, and which has the infamous "obey" clause for the Bride. (Note: The man had to give full title of all his "worldly goods" to his bride, so perhaps the "obey" part wasn't such a bad thing for some wives.)
8. And you may want to look at the "[Book of Common Prayer Wedding Ceremony](#)" [of 1945](#) , which is followed by many churches even today.

Example of an Extreme Customized Service

Opening Rituals and Songs

- The bride's family greeting and enthusiastically welcoming the groom and his family before the ceremony begins (a Hindu tradition)
- Decorating the wedding platform with flower petals
- Sprinkling of rose water near the altar Sanctifying the space with the smoke of burning sage (a Native American tradition)

- Lighting of the side Unity Candles by the Mothers or Fathers or other special people (a Christian tradition)
- Offering flowers to the Virgin Mary (a Catholic ritual)
- Ask the guests to exchange the greeting "Peace be with you" with other guests and those around them (a Catholic tradition)
- Playing of the Prelude: These songs provide background music while the guests are seated. Be prepared to provide enough songs to last fifteen to twenty minutes.
- Ushers seat the guests (Prelude music playing).
- Special music begins.
- Mothers/parents/VIPs enter and light candelabras.
- Parents of the Bride and Groom are seated.
- The Reverend and Groom enter and proceed to the front.
- Ushers unroll the aisle runner.

Processional

Entrance by the Flower Girl(s) followed by Ring Bearer, proceeds to the front, sits down

Entrance of Bridal Party

Music concludes for Bridal Party

The Reverend asks the audience to rise and welcome the Bride

The music begins for the Bride's entrance (Processional Music)

Entrance of the Bride and Father/Escort)

The Bride and her escort enter, and are met by the Groom

Bride's music concludes

Giving the Bride Away

Father or close family friend gives the bride away

Angelology

A word from God

Officiates Welcome and Commentary

Remarks from the Officiate. The Officiate welcomes guests and thanks them for coming. Exchanging Catholics "Peace be with you" greetings would be appropriate here. The Officiate may explain unfamiliar symbols in an interfaith wedding. The Officiate stresses importance of community support to a marriage. The Officiate may ask for a "community vow of support".

Bride and Groom light "Family Candles" to represent their families

Bride and Groom present flowers to parents and/or VIP's

In Memory Of:

Honoring People Who Are Not Present

Officiate will mention who is here spiritually, or who could not be here due to travel/time. Mentioning of them, give a moment of silence, or present a flower near their framed photo, etc.

Opening Remarks

Officiate announces the purpose of the occasion and/or offers a blessing or prayer.

Opening Prayer/First Reading

In a Christian wedding, this is a very common place to insert 1st Corinthians 13. In a Jewish or interfaith wedding, the Shehechyanu might be recited here. A romantic literature may also be read here.

Second Prayer/Second Reading

In a Christian wedding this is normally taken from Mark, Luke, John or Matthew. A romantic literature may also be read here also.

Special Music

Musical interlude, or musical and vocal performances

Marriage Address/Reading/Song or Blessing About Love and/or Marriage

Officiate speaks about significance of marriage and about the couple he/she is marrying. In a religious ceremony, the Officiate may deliver a sermon.

Unity Ceremonies/Rituals

Blessing of the wine or sweets, exchange of bridal crowns, garlands or leis, hand-fasting, etc.

Declaration of Support

Acknowledgement and Blessing from guests. It is also called a “community vow of support”.

Declaration of Intent to Marry Traditional Vows

Officiate asks if the couple comes to be married spiritual and legally free, and without reservation. Traditional vows may be exchanged at this point.

Negative Questioning

Does Anyone Object?

(If anyone knows of any reason why this couple should not marry...)

First Sermon

Presented by the Reverend

Personal Reading(s) and/or Song(s)

By Officiate, Couple, Family Member or Friend

Exchange of Personal Vow To Each Other

Traditional or personal vows are exchanged. May be combined with, or substituted for traditional vows.

Family Vows/Declaration of Support

For marriages involving children, family vows may be exchanged, with or without a token gift, such as a piece of jewelry. If you prefer, the family vows can come after the couple's rings and pronouncement.

Blessing Of The Rings

Officiate explains symbolism and significance of rings, or leis, or whatever is to be exchanged, and blesses them.

Exchange Of Rings

Rings are presented and exchanged.

Lord's Prayer

Audience recites the Lord's Prayer (Roman Catholic or Protestant Version)

Reverend's Blessing

Reverend's prayer of blessing for the Bride and Groom



Unity Ceremonies/Rituals

Lighting of the Unity candle, Unity bouquet or Rose Ceremony, Sand Ceremony, Covenant of Salt, Blessing of the Hands, signing the Ketubah or marriage license, etc. Appropriate music might accompany the ritual chosen.

Final Blessing and Clergy's Closing Remarks

The Apache Wedding Blessing, Jewish Seven Wedding Blessings, or personal blessing by Officiate, are popular here. Click on "Closing Blessing" above to see options

Declaration of Marriage

By the authority given me, by the state of California. . .

Pronounced as Husband and Wife

Official pronouncement of Husband and Wife may be marked by the Jewish breaking of the glass, release of doves, butterflies or balloons, ringing of bells, broom jumping, etc.

Groom & Bride Embrace in a Kiss

Presentation as Husband and Wife

Be sure to tell your Officiate the exact way to pronounce the both of you. For example: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smith, or Mr. and Mrs. Robert and Sasha Smith, or Mr. Robert Smith and Ms. Sasha Goldman, etc.

Recessional

Usually in this order - Bride and groom first, then flower girl(s) and ring bearer(s), Matron of Honor and Best Man, other Attendants as couples, than Parents and Grandparents, and rows from front to back.

Closing Ritual

Extinguishing alter candles, re-rolling aisle runner, etc.

***SAMPLES OF WEDDING CEREMONIES**



(Also See Manuals #60 - 69 on the DVD)

1. For a complete listing of all my wedding ceremonies, please see my manuals number 60 - 69, which contains over 1000 pages of sample ceremonies, which are on the DVD I presented to you.
2. I have included about 15 of them following this chapter, for your information and blending.
3. Some of them included on the DVD are as follows:

Basic Ceremony
Beach Weddings
Catholic Lite Ceremony
Celtic Hand Fasting Wedding
A Celtic Flavor
Christian Ceremony
Cowboy Vows
Dr. Seuss Wedding Vows
Filipino Wedding
Old Traditional Ceremony
Pagan Marriage Ceremony
Pirates Theme
Romantic Ceremony
Star Wars Wedding

And Many, Many More. . .

Basic Ceremony #1

(Kevin and Donna)

Opening Words

Greetings and Welcome!

I'd like to thank Kevin and Donna for allowing me to be part of this sacred occasion.

Let us begin this wedding ceremony by welcoming the presence of God within each of

us,

For wherever love is, God is.

As we lift into the loving that joins us together here as one,

Let us surround Kevin and Donna with our love, our prayers, and our best wishes for

them

On this day of celebration and throughout their journey together

As husband and wife.

Kevin and Donna, you have come to know the power of love in your lives

And so we celebrate this union

Of your hearts, minds, bodies, and souls

And wish you great joy along the path that you have chosen to embark upon.

Marriage Address

If you ask most couples who have a strong and abiding love

What they like most about their partners, usually they will say

That they don't have to pretend to be anything other than what they are.

They are able to express themselves without fear of being judged or rejected.

There is room in their relationship for both of them to be unique individuals.

They are free to surrender to the possibility of profound intimacy-

And to be known and loved without condition.

Kevin and Donna have learned that they can depend on each other

And on the power of their love,

And that through each other they are both becoming better people.

Today they come before us to declare their love and commitment to each other

Vowing to share the trials and triumphs of their life together

And declare to each other and to all of us present

That they will be by one another's side  matter what life brings their way.

We are gathered here to support Kevin and Donna

On this voyage of discovery as marriage partners.

**We are here to see them off,
May we also be there to see them through.**

Question of Intent/Spoken Vows

**Kevin, Do you take Donna as your wife and equal, lover and best friend,
keeping yourself only unto her for as long as you both shall live?**

Kevin: Yes, I do

Please join hands with Donna and repeat after me.

**I Kevin, choose you, Donna
To be my partner from this time forward;
To love and comfort you
And be a safe haven in your life.**

**To hold you close,
To listen when you speak
To nourish you with gentleness,
To uphold you with my strength,,**

**To weigh the words I speak
And the things I do,
To never take you for granted,
And to always give thanks
For your presence in my life.**

**Donna, do you take Kevin as your husband and equal, lover and best friend,
keeping yourself only unto him for as long as you both shall live?**

Donna: Yes, I do

Please (take Kevin's hands) repeat after me.

**I, Donna, choose you Kevin,
To be my partner for life,
To be by your side
Through our life's journey together.**

You are the one I choose



To spend my life with.
I promise to cherish you,
To honor you
To love and respect you,
To comfort and encourage you
In sickness and in health.
Whether we are filled with joy Or burdened with sorrow,
I promise to love you
All the days of my life.

Ring Exchange
Do you have rings to give one another?
Kevin and Donna: Yes, we do.

These rings are a symbol carried forth from antiquity.
They are simple and strong,
Circles that remind us of the embrace of love
And the fact
That as we give love so it comes back around to us.

These rings will sit quietly upon your fingers
Serving as a reminder of the covenant made here today.
May they also remind you to let your love shine
Within your union and within yourselves.
And like an embrace, let your love bring grace upon this world.
For when we are present with our hearts
Our love becomes a gift to the whole world.

Kevin, once again please repeat after me and then place the ring upon Donna's
finger.

With this ring
I pledge myself to you
To our union
And to our lasting love.

Donna, once more please repeat after me as you place the ring upon Kevin's finger

With this ring
I pledge myself to you
To our union
And to our lasting love.

**Kevin and Donna,
You have joined yourselves to one another this day, (Insert Date)
By your solemn vows,**

And by the giving and receiving of rings.

**Go into the world now and fulfill your lives.
Hold fast to your ideals.
Give to each other experiences of joy.**

**Challenge each other that you may grow
And always love one another with understanding.**

**May the love you hold for each other now sealed in marriage continue to mature,
That your life together may be a source of strength and inspiration to others**

Pronouncement

**And now, by the power vested in me,
It is my honor and privilege to pronounce that you are now husband and wife.**

You may now kiss!

Congratulations and God bless you.

Basic Ceremony #2 **(Greg and Susie)**

This is a nice straight-forward ceremony with all the key elements.

We are gathered here today to celebrate one of life's greatest moments, The Joining of 2 hearts and to give recognition to the worth and beauty of love, and to add our best wishes to the words which shall unite Greg and Susie in marriage.

Should there be anyone who has cause why this couple should not be united in marriage, Sush!!

Who Gives this Woman to this Man?

Today we have come together to witness the joining of these two lives. For them, out of the routine of ordinary life, the extraordinary has happened. They met each other, fell in love and are finalizing it with their wedding. A good marriage must be created. It is never being too old to hold hands. It's remembering to say I love you every day and it is not just marrying the right person its being the right partner.

Vows

I, Greg you Susie to be my wife, my partner in life and my one true love. I will cherish our friendship and love you today, tomorrow, and forever.

I, Susie take you Greg to be my HUSBAND, my partner in life and my one true love. I will cherish our friendship and love you today, tomorrow, and forever.

I Do's

Greg do you take Susie to be your Wife? ("I do") Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect her, forsaking all others and holding only unto her?
("I do")

Susie do you take Greg to be your Husband? ("I do") Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect him, forsaking all others and holding only unto him? ("I do")

Rings

Wedding rings are an unbroken circle of love, signifying to all the union of this man and this woman in marriage." Susie, This ring is my sacred gift, with my promise that I will

always love you, cherish you and honor you all the days of my life. And with this ring, I thee wed.

Greg, This ring is my sacred gift, with my promise that I will always love you, cherish you and honor you all the days of my life. And with this ring, I thee wed.

By the power vested in me I now pronounce you Husband and Wife

You may kiss your wife.

I present to you Mr. and Mrs. Greg and Susie Romeo.

Beach Wedding

(Terry and Chris)

This ceremony was written for a traditional, semi-formal, "spiritual but not religious" beach wedding. It includes adaptations from the *Handbook of Religious Services* published by the Church of the Larger Fellowship. The vows include two formats (repetitive and responsive) with the Bride and groom alternating repeating after the officiant and then alternating by responding with "I do" to questions put to them by the officiant. It does not include an Affirmation of Marriage (i.e. Charge to the Couple), but one can be inserted very easily to personalize the ceremony.

- Presentation of the Bride
- Opening Words
- Blessing of the Parents
- Reading "*Marriage Joins Two People In the Circle of Its Love*" by Edmund O'Neill
- Exchange of Vows
- Exchange of Rings
- Sand Ceremony
- Marriage Blessing
- Declaration of Marriage

Presentation of the Bride

Who brings this woman to be married?

Opening Words

Please gather around as we come together in the presence of this company to join these two in marriage. If life has meaning to us at all, it possesses it because of love. It is that which enshrines and ennoblees our human experience. It is the basis for the peace of family and the peace of all humanity. The greatest gift bestowed upon humans is the gift not of demanding...but of giving love between two persons.

Terry and Chris, your wedding today is the public and legal joining of your souls that have already been united as one in your hearts. Marriage will allow you a new environment to share your lives together, to face life and the world, hand-in-hand. Your union will expand you as individuals, define you as a couple, and deepen your love for one another.

Our setting at the beach today serves as a beautiful metaphor for marriage. Just as the conditions on the sea range from a blissful calm to a raging storm, so our relationships change through time. The shore absorbs the pounding of the surf as our love endures the pressures of change and growth. It is a strength that binds yet ennoblees our human experience.

Blessing of the Parents

From time immemorial, weddings such as this one have been public occasions where family and friends gather to express the joy and approval they feel for the new couple. Let me therefore ask the parents:

Do you, _____ and _____, who have raised and nurtured these two, give your blessings to them as they enter into this new relationship, and do you aspire in the days and years ahead to give them your deepest love, understanding, and support during both good times and bad? If so, please say, "We do."

Reading

At this time I invite, _____ to come forward and read "Marriage Joins Two People In the Circle of Its Love" by Edmund O'Neill

Marriage is a commitment to life, to the best that two people can find and bring out in each other. It offers opportunities for sharing and growth that no other human relationship can equal; a joining that is promised for a lifetime. Within the circle of its love, marriage encompasses all of life's most important relationships. A wife and a husband are each other's best friend, confidant, lover, teacher, listener, and critic. There may come times when one partner is heartbroken or ailing, and the love of the other may resemble the tender caring of a parent for a child. Marriage deepens and enriches every facet of life. Happiness is fuller; memories are fresher; commitment is stronger; even anger is felt more strongly, and passes away more quickly. Marriage understands and forgives the mistakes life is unable to avoid. It encourages and nurtures new life, new experiences, and new ways of expressing love through the seasons of life. When two people pledge to love and care for each other in marriage, they create a spirit unique to themselves, which binds them closer than any spoken or written words. Marriage is a promise, a potential, made in the hearts of two people who love, which takes a lifetime to fulfill.

Exchange of Vows

Terry and Chris, it is a great joy for me to be standing here with you on this day, sharing in your marriage ceremony and witnessing to the commitment you make to one another.

I remind you that the vows you are about to exchange belong entirely to you. The words I speak have no magical powers and nothing I say or do on this day can ultimately make your marriage endure with beauty, fidelity and joy. Only you, by the integrity and diligence of your life, can make these vows last.

So it is not to lofty words or institutions that we appeal at this hour of commitment, but to the resources which you draw from deep within yourselves...the deep well of human need,

the need to live united and loving and complete in an imperfect world. So will you now please (join hands/turn to one another) and repeat your vows after me?

*(Terry)/(Chris), you are my one true love,
my best friend, my soul mate.
You complete my spirit
and compliment my soul.
Today, before our family, friends and the heavens,
I pledge my love to you
and promise to share the rest of my life with you.*

Officiant: Do you (Terry)/(Chris), take (Terry)/(Chris) to be your husband/wife? Do you promise to stand by his side in both times of loss as well as times of gain? Trust, respect and celebrate him/her? Grow together by unselfishly encouraging, appreciating, nurturing and supporting him/her? Laugh, play and enjoy the simple pleasures together? Be there and comfort him/her always? And pledge your fidelity as long as you both shall live?

Chris (repeat for Groom): *I do.*

Ring Exchange

Marriage is a state in which two people come together and create a union greater than the sum of its parts. It is difficult to express in words the profound relationship that is love. The ring has long been a symbol of the sincerity and permanence of a couple's love for one another and regard for their marriage. As the circle can begin anew at any point, so a good marriage can pick any point to renew itself. These rings are symbols of your eternal love. Please repeat after me as you place the ring on your beloved's left hand.

*I give you this ring
as a symbol of my love and faithfulness.
As I place it on your finger,
I commit my heart and soul to you.
I ask you to wear this ring
as a reminder of the vows
we have spoken today, our wedding day.*

Sand Ceremony

Terry and Chris, you have just sealed your relationship by the giving and receiving of rings. Today this relationship is further symbolized through the pouring of these two individual containers of sand.

One, representing you, Terry, and all that you were, all that you are and all that you will ever be. The other, representing you, Chris, and all that you were, all that you are and all that you will ever be.

As these two containers of sand are poured into the third container, the individual containers of sand are joined together as one. Our prayer for you today is that your lives together be longer than the time it would take to separate the individual grains of sand.

Blessing of the Marriage

May that glory which rests on all who love,
rest upon you, and bless you and keep you,
and fill you with happiness and a gracious spirit.
Despite all changes of time and fortune,
may all that is noble and lovely and true
abound in your hearts and abide with you,
and give you strength in all your days together.

Declaration of Marriage

What love has brought together, let no one break asunder. For as much as you, Terry and Chris, have consented to live together in marriage and have pledged yourselves to one another, have declared the same by the giving and receiving of rings, with great pleasure and by the authority vested in me as a Minister in the state of California I do hereby pronounce you husband and wife.

Catholic Lite Ceremony

(David and Diane)

We are gathered here today to celebrate one of life's greatest moments, The Joining of 2 hearts. In this ceremony today we will witness the joining David and Diane in marriage.

If there is anyone present who has just cause why this couple should not be united let them speak now or forever hold their peace.

Who gives this woman to this man (Father of says). I Do

You have come together today so that the Lord may seal and strengthen your love in the presence of God and this community. Christ abundantly blesses your love, he strengthens you so that you may assume the duties of marriage in mutual and lasting fidelity, and so... in the presence of this community.

Today we have come together to witness the joining of these two lives. For them, out of the routine of ordinary life, the extraordinary has happened. They met each other, fell in love and are finalizing it with their wedding Today. Romance is fun, but true love is something far more and it is their desire to love each other for life and that is what we are celebrating here today.

A good marriage must be created.

In marriage the "little" things are the big things.

It is never being too old to hold hands.

It is remembering to say, "I love you" at least once a day.

It is never going to sleep angry.

It is standing together and facing the world.

It is speaking words of appreciation, and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.

It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.

It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow.

It is a common search for the good and the beautiful.

It is not only marrying the right person -- it is being the right partner

1st Corinthians

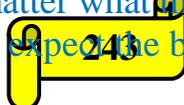
Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud.

Love is never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand it's own way.

Love is not irritable or touchy. Love does not hold grudges and will hardly notice when others do it wrong.

Love is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out. If you love someone, you will be loyal to them no matter what it costs.

You will always believe in them, always hope the best in them, and will always stand



your ground in defending them.

VOWS (face each other and hold hands)(repeat after me)

I, David take you Diane to be my wife, my partner in life and my one true love. I will cherish our friendship and love you today, tomorrow, and forever.

I will trust you and honor you

I will laugh with you and cry with you.

I will love you faithfully

Through the best and the worst,

Through the difficult and the easy.

Whatever may come I will always be there.

As I have given you my hand to hold

So I give you my life to keep.

I, Diane take you David to be my Husband, my partner in life and my one true love. I will cherish our friendship and love you today, tomorrow, and forever.

I will trust you and honor you

I will laugh with you and cry with you.

I will love you faithfully

Through the best and the worst,

Through the difficult and the easy.

Whatever may come I will always be there.

As I have given you my hand to hold

So I give you my life to keep.

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL (call and response)

Let us pray for peace, happiness and joy in everyone's life, both here at home, and around the world.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the new additions to our families, that God looks over them, and that they are always surrounded by love and caring.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those in our lives who are sick and healing, may their road to recovery be blessed.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who have traveled this road with us, but could not join us here today. We know that those people are close to us in spirit.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pause for a moment to add our own special intentions.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

David and Diane, I would ask that you always treat yourself and each other with respect, and remind yourselves often of what brought you together today.

Give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness and kindness that your marriage deserves. When frustration and difficulty assail your marriage - as they do to every relationship at one time or another - focus on what still seems right between you, not only the part that seems wrong.

This way, when clouds of trouble hide the sun in your lives and you lose sight of it for a moment, you can remember that the sun is still there. And if each of you will take responsibility for the quality of your life together, it will be marked by abundance and happiness.

I Do's

David, do you take Diane to be your Wife? ("I do")

Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect her, forsaking all others and holding only unto her forevermore? ("I do")

Diane, do you take David to be your Husband? ("I do")

Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect him, forsaking all others and holding only unto him forevermore? ("I do")

John 4:7-12

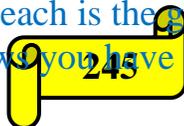
Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is born of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God—for God is love.

God showed how much he loved us by sending his only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love. It is not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love has been brought to full expression through us.

Ring Exchange (who has the rings) (repeat after me)

The ring is a symbol of the unbroken circle of love. Love freely given has no beginning and no end, no giver and no receiver for each is the giver and each is the receiver. May these rings always remind you of the vows you have taken.



I David, take thee, Diane to be my Wife- To have and to hold, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, in joy and sorrow, and I promise my love to you. Take this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity in the name of the father, and of the son, and of the Holy Spirit.

I Diane, take thee David, to be my Husband. To have and to hold, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, in joy and sorrow, and I promise my love to you. Take this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity in the name of the father, and of the son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Lord, bless and consecrate David and Diane in their love for each other. May these rings be a symbol of their true faith in each other, and always remind them of their love through the Christ to God.

Wedding Prayer

Bless their marriage, O God, as they begin their journey down the road of life together. We don't know what lies ahead for the road turns and bends. But help them to make the best of whatever comes their way.

Help them to continue to enjoy each other as they did when they first met. Help them to realize that nothing nor no one is perfect and to look for the good in all things and all people including themselves.

Help them to respect each other's likes and dislikes, opinions and beliefs, hopes and dreams and fears even though they may not always understand them.

Help them to learn from each other and to help each other to grow mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

Help them to realize that no matter what happens to them they will hold on to each other and know that things have a way of working out for the good.

Help them to create for their children a peaceful, stable home of love as a foundation on which they can build their lives.

But most of all, dear God, help them to keep lit the torch of love' that they now share so that by their loving example they may pass on the light of love to their children and to their children's children forever. Amen

To make your relationship work will take love. This is the core of your marriage and why you are here today.

It will take trust, to know, that in your hearts, you truly want what is best for each other.
It will take dedication, to stay open to one another - and to learn and grow together.
It will take faith, to go forward together, without knowing exactly what the future brings.

And it will take commitment, to hold true to the journey you both have pledged to today.

My dear friends, let us turn to the lord and pray that he will bless David and Diane united them in true marriage today. Father you have made the union of husband and wife so holy as it symbolizes the marriage of two humans through Christ to God.

Look with love upon David and Diane. Fill them both with love for each other, both honoring and respecting each other and always seeing their love as a gift to be treasured. May the commitment which they are making be sacred not only for today but for the rest of their lives.

We ask this blessing for them in the name of the father and the son and the holy spirit.

Pronouncement of couple as Husband and Wife.

You may kiss your Bride.

I would like to introduce Mr. and Mrs. David and Diane Magillacutty.

Celebrate One Of Life's Greatest Moments

(Chuck and Rita)

We are gathered here today in the sight of God, and the presence of friends and loved ones, to celebrate one of life's greatest moments. We are here to give recognition to the worth and beauty of love, and to add our best wishes and blessings to the words that will unite Chuck and Rita in holy matrimony.

If there is anyone present who has just cause why this couple should not be united let them speak now or forever hold their peace.

Who gives this woman to this man (Father of Rita or family member says). I Do

Chuck and Rita, marriage is the most important of all earthly relationships. It should be entered into reverently, thoughtfully and with full understanding of its sacred nature. Your marriage must stand by the strength of your love and the power of faith in each other and in God. Just as two threads woven in opposite directions form a beautiful tapestry, so to your two lives when merged together will make a beautiful marriage.

1st Corinthians

Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud.

Love is never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way.

Love is not irritable or touchy. Love does not hold grudges and will hardly notice when others do it wrong.

Love is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out. If you love someone, you will be loyal to them no matter what the costs.

You will always believe in them, always expect the best in them, and will always stand your ground in defending them.

VOWS (face each other and hold hands)(repeat after me)

I, Chuck take you Rita to be my wife, my partner in life and my one true love. I will cherish our friendship and love you today, tomorrow, and forever.

I will trust you and honor you

I will laugh with you and cry with you.

I will love you faithfully

Through the best and the worst,

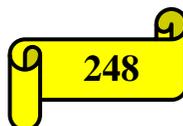
Through the difficult and the easy.

Whatever may come I will always be there.

As I have given you my hand to hold

So I give you my life to keep

So help me God.



I, Rita take you Chuck to be my Husband, my partner in life and my one true love. I will cherish friendship and love you today, tomorrow, and forever.

I will trust you and honor you
I will laugh with you and cry with you.
I will love you faithfully.
Through the best and the worst,
Through the difficult and the easy.
Whatever may come I will always be there.
As I have given you my hand to hold
So I give you my life to keep
So help me God.

John 4:7-12

Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is born of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God—for God is love.

God showed how much he loved us by sending his only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love. It is not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love has been brought to full expression through us.

I Do's

Chuck, do you take Rita to be your Wife? ("I do")

Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect her, forsaking all others and holding only unto her forevermore? ("I do")

Rita, do you take Chuck to be your Husband? ("I do") Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect him, forsaking all others and holding only unto him forevermore? ("I do")

The ring is a symbol of the unbroken circle of love. Love freely given has no beginning and no end, no giver and no receiver for each is the giver and each is the receiver. May these rings always remind you of the vows you have taken.

Ring Exchange (who has the rings) (repeat after me)

I Chuck, take thee, Rita to be my Wife- To have and to hold, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, in joy and sorrow, and I promise my love to you. And with this ring, I take you as my Wife, for as long as we both shall live.

I Rita, take thee Chuck, to be my Husband. To have and to hold, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, in joy and sorrow, and I promise my love to you. And with this ring, I take you as my husband, for as long as we both shall live.

Wedding Prayer

Bless their marriage, O God, as they begin their journey down the road of life together. We don't know what lies ahead for the road turns and bends. But help them to make the best of whatever comes their way.

Help them to continue to enjoy each other as they did when they first met.

Help them to realize that nothing, nor no one is perfect and to look for the good in all things and all people including themselves.

Help them to respect each other's likes and dislikes, opinions and beliefs, hopes and dreams and fears even though they may not always understand them.

Help them to learn from each other and to help each other to grow mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

Help them to realize that no matter what happens to them they will hold on to each other and know that things have a way of working out for the good.

Help them to create for their children a peaceful, stable home of love as a foundation on which they can build their lives.

But most of all, dear God, help them to keep lit the torch of love' that they now share so that by their loving example they may pass on the light of love to their children and to their children's children forever.

Amen.

Pronouncement of couple as Husband and Wife.

Chuck, you may kiss your beautiful wife.

I would like to introduce to you for the first time as Mr. and Mrs. Chuck and Rita Smithy.

Christian Ceremony #1

(Rick and Doreen)

(A slightly religious Ceremony)

These three weddings are suitable for couples who desire a Christian service not drawn from any particular denomination's doctrines. The services have definite religious content without espousing a specific Christian theology.

=====

We are gathered here today in the sight of God, and the presence of friends and loved ones, to celebrate one of life's greatest moments. We are here to give recognition to the worth and beauty of love, and to add our best wishes and blessings to the words that will unite Rick and Doreen in holy matrimony.

If there is anyone present who has just cause why this couple should not be united let them speak now or forever hold their peace.

Who gives this woman to this man (Father of Doreen or family member says). I Do

Rick and Doreen, marriage is the most important of all earthly relationships. It should be entered into reverently, thoughtfully and with full understanding of its sacred nature. Your marriage must stand by the strength of your love and the power of faith in each other and in God. Just as two threads woven in opposite directions form a beautiful tapestry, so to your two lives when merged together will make a beautiful marriage.

1st Corinthians

Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud.

Love is never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way.

Love is not irritable or touchy. Love does not hold grudges and will hardly notice when others do it wrong.

Love is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out. If you love someone, you will be loyal to them no matter what the costs.

You will always believe in them, always expect the best in them, and will always stand your ground in defending them.

VOWS (face each other and hold hands) (repeat after me).

I, Rick take you Doreen to be my wife, my partner in life and my one true love. I will cherish our friendship and love you today, tomorrow, and forever.

I will trust you and honor you

I will laugh with you and cry with you.

I will love you faithfully
Through the best and the worst,
Through the difficult and the easy.

Whatever may come I will always be there.
As I have given you my hand to hold
So I give you my life to keep
So help me God

I, Doreen take you Rick to be my Husband, my partner in life and my one true love. I will cherish our friendship and love you today, tomorrow, and forever.

I will trust you and honor you
I will laugh with you and cry with you.

I will love you faithfully
Through the best and the worst,
Through the difficult and the easy.
Whatever may come I will always be there.
As I have given you my hand to hold
So I give you my life to keep
So help me God

John 4:7-12

Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is born of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God—for God is love.

God showed how much he loved us by sending his only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love. It is not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love has been brought to full expression through us.

I Do's

Rick, do you take Doreen to be your Wife? ("I do")
Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect her, forsaking all others and holding only unto her forevermore? ("I do")

Doreen, do you take Rick to be your Husband? ("I do")
Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect him, forsaking all others and holding only unto him forevermore? ("I do")

The ring is a symbol of the unbroken circle of love. Love freely given has no beginning and no end, no giver and no receiver for each is the giver and each is the receiver. May these rings always remind you of the vows you have taken.

Ring Exchange (who has the rings) (repeat after me)

I Rick, take thee, Doreen to be my Wife- To have and to hold, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, in joy and sorrow, and I promise my love to you. And with this ring, I take you as my Wife, for as long as we both shall live.

I Doreen, take thee Rick, to be my Husband. To have and to hold, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, in joy and sorrow, and I promise my love to you. And with this ring, I take you as my husband, for as long as we both shall live.

Wedding Prayer

Bless their marriage, O God, as they begin their journey down the road of life together. We don't know what lies ahead for the road turns and bends. But help them to make the best of whatever comes their way.

Help them to continue to enjoy each other as they did when they first met. Help them to realize that nothing nor no one is perfect and to look for the good in all things and all people including themselves.

Help them to respect each other's likes and dislikes, opinions and beliefs, hopes and dreams and fears even though they may not always understand them.

Help them to learn from each other and to help each other to grow mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

Help them to realize that no matter what happens to them they will hold on to each other and know that things have a way of working out for the good.

Help them to create for their children a peaceful, stable home of love as a foundation on which they can build their lives.

But most of all, dear God, help them to keep lit the torch of love' that they now share so that by their loving example they may pass on the light of love to their children and to their children's children forever. Amen

Pronouncement of couple as Husband and Wife.

Rick, you may kiss your beautiful wife.

I would like to introduce Mr. and Mrs. Rick and Doreen Rupelstilken.

~ Moment Of Remembrance ~

~ Gemma and David ~

"It is Gemma and David's wish that as we get started today you all join with them in a moment to remember those who could not be here physically, but who are here in spirit and wishing them a lifetime of happiness."

Pause

~ Opening Words ~

"Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today to celebrate the love that Gemma and David share.

What greater thing is there for two human souls than to feel that they are joined together to strengthen each other in all labor, to minister to each other in all sorrow, to share with each other in all gladness, to be one with each other in the silent unspoken memories?

Today is the day that they will formally and publicly make their promises to one another. Although this is indeed a high point, marriage is a journey not a destination. Marriage is more than any one single event or promise. It is a series of decisions that have been made, and will continue to be made over and over again, every day, that shows each of their care and concern for the one whom they each love most in the world. Marriage is a promise that is renewed daily through a couples actions and a responsibility taken on in the spirit of faith, and hope, and love, that brings comfort in times of sadness and heightens our greatest joy.

Mark Twain once said that 'marriage makes two fractional lives a whole. It gives to two questioning natures a reason for living. It brings a new gladness to the sunshine, a new fragrance to the flowers, a new beauty to the earth, and a new mystery to life'

Gemma and David, may the promises you make this day live always in your hearts and in your home so that all which you share now deepen and grow through the years, leading you through a lifetime of

happiness."

~ Welcoming of the Guests ~

"Gemma and David would like to thank you all for being here with them today, and for supporting them through everything that it has taken to make this day a reality. They know that you're taking the time, and making the journey, took considerable effort for a good many of you and they wanted you all to know the deep appreciation and gratitude that they feel in their hearts for this. Without all of you and the sharing of these events our memories would lose the scents and colors and the flavor and emotion that keeps them vibrant and alive. Without all of you the past would fade to black and white over time, so please remember that your presence here is a vital part in this celebration. All of you are the most important, and have been the most influential people in their lives.

All of the time, and conversations, that you have had with Gemma and David even before they met have helped to make them who they needed to be to first find themselves and then each other. You have shared in their best and their worst days, and you are an irreplaceable part of their yesterdays, their today and all of their tomorrows. For all of you are among the greatest gifts that life has given them. All of you are those they can call Family and Friend.

~ Gemma and David ~

"Today is a celebration of love and of life, a celebration not to create a bond or a union, but rather to rejoice in the one that already exists. Today marks the continuation of a journey, the next step in ensuring that all that Gemma and David share now shall deepen and grow stronger through the seasons of life.

They shared so many wonderful things on the day we met to discuss what would be said today. David began the conversation with "I always knew that there was something missing in my life, but that the person who I would love and adore was out there somewhere. When I first met Gemma it was as if the world stood still and then everything switched to frame by frame as she and my future came towards me."

They were introduced under the ruse of buying a house, thank you Annemarie, and soon realized they shared much in common. Their upbringings are similar, they are both veterans of a similar journey

through their wild years, and it also seems that there must have been a series of near misses where their paths almost crossed over and over again. Were the powers that be being kind to them by allowing then each to age to perfection, and to gather enough wisdom to be ready for the kind of relationship that they now share? No one can say for sure but they now share a connection that is undeniable.

Some couples finish one another's sentences.... Not these two.

One merely thinks a thought and the other articulates it. Gemma loves the way that David is patient with her, he reels her in, calms her down, and makes her relax reminding her that life is too short to clip around like a Tasmanian Devil. Although usually guarded with David, Gemma has no secrets, there has always been an openness to their relationship, even from the earliest of days. He loves her creative side, that fact that they are both passionate people, and the way they balance one another, seeing each of them as a landscape full of hills and valleys that match perfectly. Not that the road is always smooth, but it is indeed interesting, and always well worth the ride.

For them marriage is physically, emotionally and spiritually supportive joining that offers them companionship as well as the opportunity to challenge one another to grow together as a couple and as individuals.

Even heated discussions are welcome because they choose to come through better than when they started. No subject is ever more important than their respect and love for one another, so under the protection of the "seven minute rule", which is the allowable cooling off period before working things out, they continue reveling in their triumphs and learning from their mistakes.

Addressing Bride and Groom

Today is the public affirmation and acknowledgment of all that you are to each other. Seemingly your relationship will be as it has always been, yet there is a power in the spoken word. May that power bring you all the warmth and closeness, security and comfort, joy and happiness that this world has to offer."

~ Presentation of The Rings ~

"May I have the rings please?"

Officiant is given the rings

"Gemma and David have chosen bands that are not identical but rather complementary, representative of each of them as individuals within their relationship. They are both classic unbroken circles, symbols of eternity, with diamonds almost as bright and beautiful as

the love they share, made of platinum. As the rarest and purest of all the precious metals platinum has both a durability and a flexibility that make it the perfect choice to symbolize the promise

of a lifetime. For although the ring will age as years pass, it will never lose its luster nor its mass. This is because it is within the nature of platinum, and of love, to mold itself around all the bumps and scrapes that life may bring and to still shine on as a beacon of truth, and beauty in a sometimes fragile world."

~ **Ring Vows** ~

"David, do you take Gemma
to be your partner in life love and all things?
Do you vow to love her and care for her
For as long as you both shall live?
Do you accept her, with all of her faults and strengths,
And offer yourself to her
with all of your own faults and strengths?
Do you promise to help her when she needs help,
and to turn to her when you need help?
Do you promise to be a faithful and loving companion
and to always put the promises you make this day
above all else?"

David: "I do."

"David will you now place the ring on Gemma's finger and repeat after me?"

David places the ring half way on to Gemma's finger

"With this ring I promise you



my passion, my compassion, my honesty and my love
This day and forever more"

David places the ring the rest of the way on to Gemma's finger

"Gemma, do you take David
to be your partner in life love and all things?
Do you vow to love him and care for him
For as long as you both shall live?
Do you accept him, with all of his faults and strengths,
And offer yourself to him
with all of your own faults and strengths?
Do you promise to help him when he needs help,
and to turn to him when you need help?
Do you promise to be a faithful and loving companion
and to always put the promises you make this day
above all else?"

"Gemma will you now place the ring on David's finger and repeat
after me?"

Gemma places the ring half way onto David's finger

"With this ring I promise you
my honesty my integrity my trust and my love
This day and forever more."

Gemma places the ring the rest of the way onto David's finger

~ Closing Words ~

"Take into account that great love
and great achievements involve great risk.
And that a loving atmosphere in your home
is the foundation for your life.
Be gentle with the earth, be gentle with one another.
When disagreements come remember always
to protect the spirit of your union.
When you realize you've made a mistake,
take immediate steps to correct it.
Remember that the best relationship is one
in which your love for each other

exceeds your need for each other.
So love yourselves, love one another,
love all that is your life together and all else will follow."

"And now that you've made your vows and promises of
love and faithfulness before these witnesses, and exchanged rings of
commitment as a testimony to that love, you may now seal your
promises with a kiss!"

Bride and Groom kiss and exit to greet their guests!

One Of My Favorite Ceremonies

(James and Sarah)

This can be customized or modified with add-ins, poems, prayers etc.

We are gathered here today to celebrate one of life's greatest moments, The Joining of 2 hearts. In this ceremony today we will witness the joining James and Sarah in marriage. If there is anyone present who has just cause why this couple should not be united.....
Sussh!

Who gives this woman to this man (Father of Sarah or family member says). I Do

Today we have come together to witness the joining of these two lives. For them, out of the routine of ordinary life, the extraordinary has happened. They met each other, fell in love and are finalizing it with their wedding Today.

Romance is fun, but true love is something far more and it is their desire to love each other for life and that is what we are celebrating here today.

A good marriage must be created.

In marriage the "little" things are the big things.

It is never being too old to hold hands.

It is remembering to say, "I love you" at least once a day.

It is never going to sleep angry.

It is standing together and facing the world.

It is speaking words of appreciation, and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.

It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.

It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow.

It is a common search for the good and the beautiful.

It is not only marrying the right person -- it is being the right partner

VOWS (face each other and hold hands)(repeat after me)

I, James take you Sarah to be my wife, my partner in life and my one true love. I will cherish our friendship and love you today, tomorrow, and forever.

I will trust you and honor you

I will laugh with you and cry with you.

Through the best and the worst,

Through the difficult and the easy.

Whatever may come I will always be there.

As I have given you my hand to hold

So I give you my life to keep

I, Sarah take you James to be my Husband, my partner in life and my one true love. I will cherish our friendship and love you today, tomorrow, and forever.

I will trust you and honor you

I will laugh with you and cry with you.

Through the best and the worst,

Through the difficult and the easy.

Whatever may come I will always be there.

As I have given you my hand to hold

So I give you my life to keep

James and Sarah I would ask that you always treat yourself and each other with respect, and remind yourselves often of what brought you together today.

Give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness and kindness that your marriage deserves. When frustration and difficulty assail your marriage - as they do to every relationship at one time or another - focus on what still seems right between you, not only the part that seems wrong.

This way, when clouds of trouble hide the sun in your lives and you lose sight of it for a moment, you can remember that the sun is still there. And if each of you will take responsibility for the quality of your life together, it will be marked by abundance and happiness.

I Do's

James, do you take Sarah to be your Wife? ("I do")

Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect her, forsaking all others and holding only unto her forevermore? ("I do")

Sarah, do you take James to be your Husband? ("I do")

Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect him, forsaking all others and holding only unto him forevermore? ("I do")

The ring is a symbol of the unbroken circle of love. Love freely given has no beginning and no end, no giver and no receiver for each is the giver and each is the receiver. May these rings always remind you of the vows you have taken.

Ring Exchange (who has the rings) (repeat after me)

I James, take thee, Sarah to be my Wife- To have and to hold, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, in joy and sorrow, and I promise My love to you. And with this ring, I take you as my Wife, for as long as we both shall live.

I Sarah, take thee James, to be my Husband. To have and to hold, in sickness and in health,

for richer or for poorer, in joy and sorrow, and I promise My love to you. And with this ring, I take you as my husband, for as long as we both shall live.

To make your relationship work will take love. This is the core of your marriage and why you are here today.

It will take trust, to know, that in your hearts, you truly want what is best for each other.
It will take dedication, to stay open to one another - and to learn and grow together.
It will take faith, to go forward together, without knowing exactly what the future brings.
And it will take commitment, to hold true to the journey you both have pledged to today.

Pronouncement of couple as Husband and Wife.

You may kiss your beautiful wife.

I would Like to introduce Mr. and Mrs. James and Sarah Peters.

Old Traditional Ceremony

(Most Common)

(Nate and Nancy)

Dearly beloved, we are gathered together here in the sight of God to join together this Man and this Woman in holy Matrimony; which is an honorable estate, instituted by God in Paradise, and into which holy estate these two persons present come now to be joined. Therefore if any man can show any just cause, why they may not lawfully be joined together, by God's Law, or the Laws of the Realm; let him now speak, or else hereafter forever behold his peace.

And also, speaking unto the persons that shall be married, he shall say,

I require and charge you both, as ye will answer at the dreadful day of judgment when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed, that if either of you know any impediment, why ye may not be lawfully joined together in Matrimony, that ye confess it. For ye be well assured, that so many as be coupled together otherwise than God's Word doth allow are not joined together by God; neither is their Matrimony lawful.

If no impediment be alleged, then shall the Priest say unto the Man,

Nate, wilt thou have this Woman to be thy wedded wife, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of Matrimony? Wilt thou love her, comfort her, honour, and keep her, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, keep thee only unto her, so long as ye both shall live?

The Man shall answer: I will.

Then shall the Priest say to the Woman,

Nancy, wilt thou have this man to be thy wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of Matrimony? Wilt thou obey him, and serve him, love, honor, and keep him in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all other, keep thee only unto him, so long as ye both shall live?

The Woman shall answer: I will.

Thus ends the formal betrothal.

They shall then advance unto the Altar, led by the Minister, who shall then turn to the assembled company, and the person who g263 the Woman shall place the Woman's



right hand in the hand of the Minister, and then shall retire. Then shall they give their troth to each other in this manner:

The Minister, receiving the Woman at her father's or friend's hands, shall cause the Man with his right hand to take the Woman by her right hand, and to say after him as follows,

I, Nate, take thee Nancy, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, for fairer, or fouler, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us depart, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereunto I plight thee my troth.

The Woman shall likewise say after the Minister,

I Nancy, take thee Nate, to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, or poorer, in sickness and in health, to be bonny and buxom at bed and at board, to love, and to cherish, till death us depart, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereunto I plight thee my troth.

Then shall they again loose their hands; and the Man shall give unto the Woman a Ring, laying the same upon the Book with the accustomed duty to the Priest and Clerk. And the Priest shall bless the Ring(s) in the following manner :

Bless these Rings, O merciful Lord, that those who wear them, that give and receive them, may be ever faithful to one another, remain in your peace, and live and grow old together in your love, under their own vine and fig tree, and seeing their children's children. Amen.

And the Priest, taking the Ring, shall deliver it to the Man, and taught by the Priest, he shall say,

With this Ring I thee wed, (here placing it upon her thumb) and with my body I thee honor, (here placing it upon her index finger) and with all my worldly goods I thee endow; (here placing it upon her ring finger) In the Name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

If it be a double-ring ceremony, let the Woman do the same as the Man, giving him the ring, and repeating the same words as he.

They both shall kneel down; and the Minister shall say,

Let us pray.. O Eternal God, Creator and Preserver of all mankind, Giver of all spiritual grace, the Author of everlasting life; Send thy blessing upon these thy servants, this man and this woman, whom we bless in thy Name; + that, as Isaac and

Rebecca lived faithfully together, so these persons may surely perform and keep the vow and covenant betwixt them made, whereof this Ring given and received is a token and pledge, and may ever hereafter remain in perfect love and peace together, and live according to thy laws; through Jesus the Christ our Lord. Amen.

And here shall be said the "Our Father." Then shall the Priest join their right hands together, and say,

Those whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder.

Then shall the Minister speak unto the people.

Forasmuch as Nate and Nancy have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and thereto have given and pledged their troth each to the other, and have declared the same by giving and receiving of a Ring, and by joining of hands; I pronounce therefore that they be Man and Wife together, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

And the Minister shall add this blessing.

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favor look upon you; and so fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace, that ye may so live together in this life, that in the world to come ye may have life everlasting. Amen.

And here the Minister shall turn the couple to the Company, and they may kiss each the other, and then proceed from the Altar.

Touched By Love

(Peter and Ruth)

Note: Although the entire ceremony can be modified in any way you like, I have italicized the portions that could be removed if you do not want a religious ceremony.

Minister: Ladies and Gentlemen, please rise.

Presentation of the Bride

Minister: Who gives this woman to be married to this man? . . . OR . . . Who supports this woman in her commitment to this man?

The Father: Her mother and I . . . OR . . . Our family does . . . OR . . . I do.

Minister: You may be seated.

Minister's Welcome and Opening Remarks

Welcome, one and all. How beautiful is the day that is touched by love! May this be a moment to be remembered and cherished.

Marriage is a very special spiritual connection of two people united for a common purpose, bringing love and trust together into single focus. We have come together *in the presence of God (Love)* to witness and bless the joining of this man and this woman *in Holy Matrimony. The bond and covenant of marriage was established by God in creation, and our Lord Jesus Christ adorned this manner of life by his presence and first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee.*

It signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, and Holy Scripture commends it to be honored among all who are gathered here.

The union of wife and husband in heart, body, and mind is intended *by God* for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; *and their nurture in the knowledge and love of God. Therefore marriage is not to be entered into lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God. .*

Relationship Thoughts from the Minister

Sooner or later we begin to understand that love is more than verses on valentines and romance in movies.

We begin to know that love is here and now, real and true, the most important thing in our lives. For love is the creator of our favorite memories and the foundation of our fondest dreams.

Without love, we merely exist. With love, we truly begin to live!

For love is a promise that is always kept, a fortune that can never be spent, a seed that can flourish in even the most unlikely place. And this radiance that never fades, this mysterious and magical joy is the greatest treasure of all - one known only by those who truly love.

We are together as friends, relatives and family to mark the end of one beginning and to recognize officially a new beginning which for Peter and Ruth serves as a public affirmation of their friendship and their love.

Someone once said: The most wonderful of all things in life, is the discovery of another human being with whom one's relationship has a growing depth, beauty and joy as the years increase.

There are no ties on earth so sweet, none so tender as those you are about to assume. There are no vows so solemn as those you are about to make. There is no institution of earth so sacred as that of the union you will form, for the true home is not only the place in which you will live, but is also the dwelling place where each lives in the heart and mind of the other.

Charge to the Couple

Peter and Ruth, true marriage is the strongest of all earthly unions. It is to be entered into reverently, consciously and with full understanding of its significance.

To be complete, marriage must be spiritual as well as an earthly estate. When it is Spiritual in thought, purpose, plan and action, it becomes the harmonious, peaceful and happy union for man and woman.

The state of matrimony is true marriage only when it is based upon a deep, inner communion of two souls who find completion, each in the other.

Today, your separate lives, each with your individual memories, desires and hopes, merge into one life - a new dimension.

Marriage can be a great adventure when it is the outward expression of a great love; such a love is characterized by compassion, passion and courage.

It allows you to see through to your partner's essence, willing to be in total support of your partner's well-being, goals, purpose and spirit; and unwilling for your partner to be less than all he or she can be spiritually, mentally, and physically.

Such a love requires that you be totally honest with yourself and your mate, that you ask for what you want, take action even though you are afraid, share your feelings and listen but leave your partner free to be who they really are. In other words, always love your partner for who they are, not for who you think they should be.

Always remember, "Relationships are something that must be worked on all the time, not only when they are broken and need to be fixed. Never stop doing the things that brought you together in the first place."

We as your friends gathered here today, accept for you a love that brings out your magnificence, a love that gives you the courage to stand apart and the willingness to stand together. When times call for you to be apart, may you always return to your togetherness in the same spirit of love that you are feeling in this moment.

Most of all, we want that, at the end of your lives on this planet, you will look into each other's eyes and be able to say:

"Because you have loved me, you have given me a faith in myself, and because I have faith in myself, I have loved my fellow man. My life with you has been complete."

•••

(Optional) - Wedding Readings (Scriptural or Otherwise)/Music/Poetry by friends or family –

•••

(Optional) – This is a good place to insert any vows or promises that you would like to make to each other, if you would like to do so.

•••

Minister to Peter: Peter do you reach out in love to receive Ruth and choose to share your life with her? Will you promise always to give to her your expression of your ever growing love; will you comfort her, be sensitive to her needs, express your feelings with her, listen to her, put your trust in her, and forsaking all others, be her intimate friend and honor her as your equal partner?

Groom: "I do" . . . OR . . . "I will"

Minister to Ruth: Ruth do you reach out in love to receive Peter and choose to share your life with him? Will you promise always to give to him your expression of your ever growing love; will you comfort him, be sensitive to his needs, express your feelings with him, listen to him, put your trust in him, and forsaking all others, be his intimate friend and honor him as your equal partner?

Ruth: "I do" . . . OR . . . "I will"

(Peter and Ruth say the following at the same time to each other)

I give you my love
my heart
my hope
my joy;
these I offer you freely.

To delight in your soul
to nourish your mind.

To celebrate love with you
to share my joy to console you in sorrow
I choose to go with you always.

I promise to listen to you
to express my innermost feelings
to labor with you to believe in you even when you doubt yourself
to be the mirror of your highest value
and to hold myself beside you
for the rest of our days.

Exchange of Vows

Minister to Peter: Peter, please repeat after me.

I Peter, choose you, Ruth, to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to honor and respect, to love and to cherish. I say these words because I love you, and choose to live the rest of my life with you. This is my solemn vow.

Minister to Ruth: Ruth, please repeat after me.

I Ruth, choose you, Peter, to be my husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to honor and respect, to love and to cherish. I say these words because I love you, and choose to live the rest of my life with you. This is my solemn vow.

Minister: What symbols do you give in this marriage?

Peter and Ruth: Rings.

(Ring bearer(s) gives rings to the Minister)

Your rings are circles and a circle is the symbol of the sun, the earth, the universe, of wholeness, perfection, peace and unity. Like circles, your rings have no beginning and no end and in the sacred tradition of marriage rings have come to symbolize eternal love and the endless union of body, of mind, and spirit.

These rings will be worn by Peter and Ruth to show to the world their love and commitment to one another. May the presence of these rings always remind you of the eternal love you have pledged and devotion you willingly.

Optional: (Silent Prayer) - Let each of us in his own way, may it be prayer, may it be by a thought, whatever you and I would wish for this couple, let's pray or have our own thoughts as a blessing upon these rings. Let us pause at this time for these silent blessings. (pause) These rings, now blessed are a symbol of love and faithfulness. They seal the vows of marriage and represent a promise of forever love.

Or. . . you may substitute a prayer from the minister for the silent prayer.

Minister to Peter: Peter, please repeat after me.

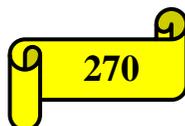
I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you, in the Name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
You may now place the ring on her finger.

Minister to Ruth: Ruth, please repeat after me.

I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you, in the Name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
You may now place the ring on his finger.

Optional: You may insert an add-on ceremony here such as the unity candle, sand blending ceremony, love letter ceremony, etc.

Pronouncement of Marriage



Now that Peter and Ruth have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, with the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of a ring, I now pronounce you wife and husband, *in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

Optional: Insert Rose Exchange ceremony here.

Minister: You may now seal your promises with a kiss. . . . OR . . . the traditional way. .

You may now kiss your wife.

Minister: Ladies and Gentlemen: It is my pleasure to introduce to you, Mr. & Mrs. Williams.

Traditional Ceremony With Contemporary Flavor

(Nathaniel and Beth)

We are gathered here today in the sight of God, and the presence of friends and loved ones, to celebrate one of life's greatest moments. We are here to give recognition to the worth and beauty of love, and to add our best wishes and blessings to the words that will unite Nathaniel and Beth in holy matrimony.

Who gives this woman to this man (Father of the Bride or family member says). I Do

Nathaniel and Beth, marriage is the most important of all earthly relationships. It should be entered into reverently, thoughtfully and with full understanding of its sacred nature. Your marriage must stand by the strength of your love and the power of faith in each other and in God. Just as two threads woven in opposite directions form a beautiful tapestry, so to your two lives when merged together will make a beautiful marriage.

1st Corinthians

Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud. Love is never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand it's own way. Love is not irritable or touchy. Love does not hold grudges and will hardly notice when others do it wrong.

Love is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out. If you love someone, you will be loyal to them no matter what the costs. You will always believe in them, always expect the best in them, and will always stand your ground in defending them.

VOWS (face each other and hold hands) (repeat after me)

I, Nathaniel take you Beth to be my wife, my partner in life and my one true love.
I will cherish our friendship and love you today, tomorrow, and forever.
I will trust you and honor you I will laugh with you and cry with you.
I will love you faithfully through the best and the worst,
Through the difficult and the easy.
Whatever may come I will always be there. As I have given you my hand to hold
So I give you my life to keep So help me God

I, Beth take you Nathaniel to be my Husband, my partner in life and my one true love.
I will cherish our friendship and love you today, tomorrow, and forever.
I will trust you and honor you
I will laugh with you and cry with you. I will love you faithfully
Through the best and the worst,

Through the difficult and the easy.
Whatever may come I will always be there.
As I have given you my hand to hold

So I give you my life to keep So help me God

John 4:7-12

Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is born of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God—for God is love.

God showed how much he loved us by sending his only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love. It is not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love has been brought to full expression through us.

I Do's

Nathaniel, do you take Beth to be your Wife? ("I do")

Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect her, forsaking all others and holding only unto her forevermore? ("I do") Beth, do you take Nathaniel to be your Husband? ("I do")

Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect him, forsaking all others and holding only unto him forevermore? ("I do")

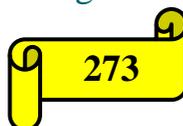
The ring is a symbol of the unbroken circle of love. Love freely given has no beginning and no end, no giver and no receiver for each is the giver and each is the receiver. May these rings always remind you of the vows you have taken.

Ring Exchange (who has the rings) (repeat after me)

I Nathaniel, take thee, Beth to be my Wife- To have and to hold, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, in joy and sorrow, and I promise my love to you. And with this ring, I take you as my Wife, for as long as we both shall live.

I Beth, take thee Nathaniel, to be my Husband. To have and to hold, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, in joy and sorrow, and I promise my love to you. And with this ring, I take you as my husband, for as long as we both shall live.

Wedding Prayer



Bless their marriage, O God, as they begin their journey down the road of life together. We don't know what lies ahead for the road turns and bends. But help them to make the best of whatever comes their way.

Help them to continue to enjoy each other as they did when they first met. Help them to realize that nothing nor no one is perfect and to look for the good in all things and all people including themselves.

Help them to respect each other's likes and dislikes, opinions and beliefs, hopes and dreams and fears even though they may not always understand them.

Help them to learn from each other and to help each other to grow mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

Help them to realize that no matter what happens to them they will hold on to each other and know that things have a way of working out for the good.

Help them to create for their children a peaceful, stable home of love as a foundation on which they can build their lives. But most of all, dear God, help them to keep lit the torch of love' that they now share so that by their loving example they may pass on the light of love to their children and to their children's children forever.

Amen

Pronouncement of couple as Husband and Wife.

You may kiss your beautiful Wife.

I would like to introduce to you for the first time: Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel and Beth Nottingham.

Traditional/Religious Ceremony #1

(Danny and Alice)

We are here today, not only to witness your commitment to each other, Danny and Alice, but also to wish you both every happiness in your future life as a couple. Within its framework of commitment and loyalty, marriage enables the establishment of a home, where through trust, patience and respect, the love and affection that you have for each other may continue to develop and deepen in the years to come.

We have come here today to be with Alice and Danny as they take the next step in their journey together. In one sense they are not beginning a new life, they are continuing and strengthening the bond that is obviously already there. A piece of paper cannot make a marriage. For Danny and Alice, the spirit of marriage is already alive in their hearts and minds. Therefore, the piece of paper that is generated from this ceremony today merely conforms their outward status to the love, friendship and affection that is already there.

5. Reading

At this time [friend or family member] is going to share with us a reading, [title of reading]

6. Statement of Intent and Exchange of Vows.

As an expression that you are joining hearts and lives, please join hands while facing each other, to recite your vows.

Do you, Danny take Alice to be your wedded wife, to cherish in love and in friendship, in strength and in weakness, in success and in disappointment, to love her faithfully, today, tomorrow, and for as long as the two of you shall live?

I do.

Do you, Alice take Danny to be your wedded husband, to cherish in love and in friendship, in strength and in weakness, in success and in disappointment, to love her faithfully, today, tomorrow, and for as long as the two of you shall live?

I do.

7. Exchange of Rings

Rings are an ancient symbol of unity and completeness. As day follows night and night follows day, your two lives are now joined in one unbroken circle.

Danny, please place this ring on [Alice's] finger and repeat after me:

With this ring



I pledge my love and life to you.

Alice, while placing the ring on [Danny's] finger, if you will also repeat these words after me:

With this ring I pledge my love and life to you.

8. Unity Candle

From every person there arises an individual light, whole and complete, to be honored and respected. And then when they form a bond with another whole, complete person, a single, brighter light emerges from their union.

At this time I would ask that you light the two outside candles that stand for you as individuals.

[Each lights a candle.]

These also symbolize your separate families and sets of friends that each of you bring to the marriage. With these flames I ask that you now light a new and brighter light, which is your candle of unity, for the new life you will share. Your own lights will not be extinguished—your marriage will be made stronger by the richness you bring to it as individuals.

[Together they light the candle of unity.]

The flames that are kindled here are precious. As the years go by, you must tend all three flames to keep the light of your marriage strong and bright.

9. Blessing of Marriage

Before all is said and done today, I would add some words of advice. Danny and Alice, please treat yourselves and each other with respect, and remind yourselves often of what brought you together. Give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness and kindness that your connection deserves. When frustration, difficulty and fear assail your relationship—as they threaten all relationships at one time or another—remember to focus on what is right between you, not only the part which seems wrong. In this way, you can ride out the storms when clouds hide the face of the sun in your lives, remembering that even if you lose site of it for a moment, the sun is still there. And if each of you takes responsibility for the quality of your life together, it will be marked by abundance and delight.

10. Pronouncement

Alice & Danny, if there is anything you recall after today of this marriage ceremony, please remember that it is love that brought you here today and it is through love by which your marriage shall endure.

And now by the power vested in me by the State of Oregon, I pronounce you husband and wife. You may share the first kiss of your marriage.

[Kiss.]

Ladies and Gentlemen: It is with great pleasure that I introduce to you for the first time as a married couple, _____ and _____.

11. Recessional

Bride and Groom exit first

Bridal party exit in pairs

12. Signing of Marriage License.

Wine Box And Love Letter Ceremony

Here's an idea that will certainly grab the attention of the guests, add some pizzazz to your ceremony and incorporate a new twist into your celebration.

Here is what you will need:

- A wooden wine box
- a bottle of your favorite wine
- two love letters sealed in separate envelopes
- a small hammer and several nails.

A few weeks before the wedding, take some time to each write a letter to one another, expressing your thoughts about the good qualities that you found in your future partner, the reasons for falling in love with them and your hopes and dreams for the future. In other words, you write a "love letter" to each other and place it in a sealed envelope, with the name of your partner on the outside. Do not read what the other has written.

Be creative with the box by putting foam inside to support the wine bottle. Line the inside with satin material. You can also include CDs of your favorite music, favorite pictures of you together, and other mementos making it your own romantic time capsule. Keep the box in a place of honor as a constant visual reminder of your love and commitment to each other. The box can be a life preserver in years to come.

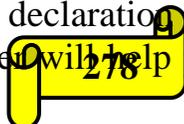
The Wine Box should be opened on your 5th wedding anniversary.

There is only one other reason the box should be opened before your anniversary. If there should come a time when you hit a bumpy road in your relationship, before you give up or make any irrational decisions, open the Wine Box. The hope is that there will never be a reason to have to open the box except on your anniversary!

Hit a rough spot in your relationship? Sit down together, open the box, uncork the wine and unseal the envelopes that you wrote for one another before your wedding, go to separate rooms and quietly read the love letter.

Even if you are not seeing eye-to-eye at that very moment, it will remind you of all the reasons you chose this person as your partner and all the things that helped shape the life they've created together. Never take your blessings of being together for granted.

The romantic sentiments you wrote, the declaration of love, the clear thoughts about why you chose this person as your life partner will help put you back on even ground. This is



the perfect ritual to remind you of your wedding day and your intention to love and cherish each other in good times and bad for as long as you both shall live.

Toward the end of your ceremony the Officiate will state the purpose of the "Love Letter & Wine Box Ceremony."

The Officiate will elaborate on the reasons for the sealed love letters, place the sealed envelopes in with the wine bottle and will speak about the exercise that you went through. It should be emphasized that the letters have not been read by the Officiate or by anyone else.

The box will then be nailed shut. The Officiate begins with the first nail, followed by the Bride and Groom sealing the box shut. You can have each member of your wedding party step up and nail the box shut.

Your guests will be pleased to have been a witness to something so unique and different at your wedding ceremony.

LET'S START THE WEDDING



1st Musical Rendition (Prelude)

1. Prelude: These songs provide background music while the guests are seated. Be prepared to provide enough songs to last fifteen to thirty minutes.

2nd Music Rendition (Wedding Party Processional)

1. Wedding Party's Processional: This slow song sets the tempo for the Bridal Party's walk down the aisle. Pachelbel's "Canon in D" is a popular choice.

***The Flower Girl #1 of 3**

Tips on Choosing a Flower Girl, Avoiding Nerves, & Finding a Flower Girl Dress

When Does The Flower Girl Enter?

There are two different ideas of thought here.

1). In the olden days the flower girl was the very first person to proceed down the aisle. After she dropped the flowers, everyone walking on the flowers would dispel the flower's scent as they walked on them.

2). In today's era, the flower girl may also precede just before the Bride. This represents innocence and a cute little one at the wedding.

What is a Flower Girl?

A flower girl is usually a young girl between the ages of 4 and 8 who has a special connection to the bride and groom. Perhaps she is a niece or cousin, or a family friend. She is normally the very first person to walk down the aisle with a basket of flowers, scattering them down the aisle, followed by the Ring Bearer.

Why Does The Flower Girl Drop Flowers?

In most cases, the Flower Girl(s) is the very the first person down the aisle. As she drops the flowers onto the ground, the other members of the party steps onto the flowers releasing the flower scent into the air. That is why she is "normally" first wedding party person.

How to Choose a Flower Girl:

For some of you, the choice will be obvious. Others may have to worry about choosing between several possible candidates. There's no reason why you can't have two or even three flower girls – it will add to their confidence and ups the cuteness quotient. Avoid choosing someone who is too young – she will be confused and perhaps scared. An older girl may be more suited for a job such as reader, or junior bridesmaid. If your only choices are unsuitable or not that close to you, there is no reason why you have to have a flower girl.

Preparing Your Flower Girl For Her Role, and Calming Her Jitters

One of the best ways to do this is buy her a book about being a flower girl which will explain her role, and get her excited. Seat her parents on the aisle, near the front so that she can see them when she walks down the aisle and during the ceremony itself. Ask a bridesmaid to be her "buddy" and make sure she uses the restroom before the ceremony. Most of all, don't be too nervous that she will make a mistake. If she dumps all her petals at the start of the aisle, runs instead of walks, or even starts to cry, guests will think it's cute.

What She Should Wear:

Often, a flower girl is dressed in a mini-version of the bride's dress, or a white dress with a sash that matches the bridesmaid's dresses. But you can choose any sweet dress that ties into the look of the wedding. Make sure it's comfortable and not too long, so that she won't be pulling at her dress or tripping down the aisle. If your flower girl doesn't like dresses, choose a pants outfit with the same level of formality as the bridesmaid dresses.

Where to Find a Flower Girl Dress

You can find flower girl dresses at bridal shops, children's clothing stores, and department stores. Since the parents typically pay for their daughter's dress, try to choose something relatively inexpensive. Some of my favorites are [Us Angels](#), [J. Crew](#) and [Little Flowers](#). [Flowergirl dresses](#) offers some nice less expensive choices.

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1. If you are going to use a Ring Bearer or a Flower Girl, I would like to know her full name and middle initial. I will issue her a **Certificate of Appreciation** to them as my gratitude from me to them. It makes them feel important. Below is such an example. The same goes for the Ring Bearer as it does for the Flower Girls.
 2. Sometimes the little ones get stage fright, and will shy away and stand fast. If this happens, often you can go with them down the aisles. Another way is to have their mom, dad, sister or brother in the front and call for him to come on down. If all else fails, I have seen some parents who physically carry the flower girl or ring bearers.
 3. After the ceremony I will call for them (along with the 2 witnesses) and present them with a certificate for doing such a great job. This makes them feel important, and as an actual member of the wedding party.
 4. Also as part of my "Wedding Emergency Kit", I have candy (usually M&M's) to present to the flower girls/ring bearer who just won't come down the aisle. They are in a little "tin" that I can shake so that they can hear it.



Having a flower girl as part of the wedding party dates back to the Victorian Era. The original intention was to use her as a way to provide entertainment to guests who would ooh and aaah as she walked down the aisle. These days her main purpose might not be to entertain, but guests are still delighted when she walks before the bride. The flower girl signals the arrival of the bride!

Flower Girl Duties In Detail #2 of 3

Cute as a button, but not without some dos and don'ts. Here's the nitty-gritty.

What's the flower girl's primary role? To be darling, of course. But rosy cheeks and ribbons aside, her cruise down the aisle is no small feat. Having a flower girl is optional, but it's a nice way to make a favorite little person feel a part of it all. Here's an explanation of her role and tips to help make it easy.

- The flower girl, usually an adorable little lady aged three to eight, proceeds down the aisle just before the maid of honor, scattering rose petals along the bridal path. She follows the ring bearer (if there is one), and sometimes she will even precede the bride. Traditionally, she totes a basket full of petals, but other alternatives include wrapped candies or confetti. Also, instead of scattering aforementioned items, she can carry a single bloom, a pomander (a lush ball of flowers), or blow bubbles.
- Never underestimate the power of the buddy system. We love the idea of having two flower girls or pairing up ring bearer and flower girl so that they can proceed together, side by side. Partnering will give them added confidence.
- If some bridesmaids are skittish about the processional, then the flower girl is definitely going to be a little spooked. To communicate the importance of her role, while minimizing the pressure, the bride should explain the flower girl's duties to her well in advance. The parents should follow up with pep talks and rehearsals.
- If possible, arrange to have the flower girl attend the shower and/or the bridesmaids' lunch (if the bride is having one) to boost her comfort level around the other (bigger) bridal attendants. Seeing friendly, familiar faces on the big day will help to ease any anxiety.
- Seat the flower girl's parents toward the front of the ceremony so she can focus on them and be encouraged by their smiles of reassurance. The very young flower girl should sit with her parents after she walks; poised little ladies may stand at the altar with the other bridal attendants.
- Flower girls aren't limited to wearing mini replicas of the bride's dress. Tea-length white dresses with a bonnet or satin bow are standard and sweet, but there are many little-girl looks to choose from.
- Keep in mind that having children in the ceremony means there's only so much one can control. Rest assured that whatever the flower girl does (cries, drops the basket, lifts up her dress...), her personality and preciousness will make the guests smile.

Things Flower Girls Can Drop In The Wedding Other Than Flowers #3 of

3

By: Reverend Steve Whitters

Created On: 7 July 2012



It is tradition for the flower girl to toss petals down the aisle, but what she drops or carries is up to you.

As a landmark occasion in your life, your wedding can be customized as much as you'd like to accommodate the tastes and personalities of you and your partner. It is tradition for the flower girl to toss petals down the aisle, but what she drops or carries is up to you. If your wedding has a

unique theme or location, or if you just favor originality, consider one of these flower petal alternatives.

Leaves and Acorns

- At a fall wedding, leaves and acorns make fantastic alternatives to traditional rose petals. Use their natural quality to bring a rustic element to an elegant wedding, or have them fit in seamlessly with the rest of a traditional country wedding. These easily biodegradable options are particularly ideal at outdoor venues. Fall leaves can be used in a variety of colors to complement the specific décor of your natural wedding. For an extra touch of elegance, you can make your own paper leaves for the same purpose. If you are considering using use Acorns, just make sure that everyone knows that they are round and slippery little things. **AND ARE NOT FOR EATING, OR PUTTING INTO MOUTHS!**

Seashells

- Beach weddings are perfectly complemented by seashells strewn across the sand by your flower girl. Seashells, unlike flower petals, will not blow away in the ocean breeze during your beach wedding. They can be collected from the beach before the ceremony or be purchased in advance; they are available in various sizes and even come in different colors. Sharp or broken shells can be dangerous, so purchasing small rounded shells is recommended.

Glitter and Confetti

- For a particularly festive option -- well-suited to a nighttime wedding or a glitzy holiday wedding, such as one with a New Year's theme -- your flower girl could carry glitter or confetti to toss down the aisle instead of flower petals. This is a great way to add some sparkle to the ceremony. Confetti and glitter are both inexpensive, widely available and come in a variety of colors and shapes to match your wedding's theme. Be prepared, though; particularly if your flower girl is quite young, this can be a very messy choice.

Fake Snow

- Weddings with winter or holiday themes can be heartwarming and elegant. A lovely touch would be fake snow sprinkled along the aisle by your flower girl, creating a snowy path for you and your partner to walk down together. This is a much more natural fit for a winter wedding than flower petals, and it looks elegant against a winter color palette which frequently includes whites, blues, silver and gold.

Candies

- Most any type of candies can be thrown by the little one. (Halloween candies are the most appropriate). In certain weather though, be sure it does not melt, nor get wet. Also be sure that there is not a room full of other little ones who will immediately go after the candy.

Confetti

- Flower girls can throw confetti down the aisle to add pizzazz to your ceremony. Avoid traditional confetti that is only available in tiny pieces as it can be dangerous for small children. Opt for confetti in the shape of wedding bells, hearts or that represents a common bond between the bride and groom. You can find confetti in an assortment of colors ranging from white to red. A color that contrasts your aisle runner is the best option.

Pennies

- Pennies provide a wishful adornment to your wedding aisle runner. You can spray paint the pennies in a glittery shade of bronze or leave them as is. Pennies are easy to accumulate for your flower girl baskets and are safe for children to handle. If you want a full basket of pennies, choose fake coins instead as the metal may make the baskets too heavy. You can find fake coins at party supply stores or toy stores.

Potpourri

- Potpourri is a mixture of spices, herbs, dried flowers and scented oils. Potpourri is dry and fragrant, making it a great option for your flower girls to toss. Potpourri can



be made at home or purchased in your favorite scent at a home goods store. The potpourri may not be strong enough to create a scent that fills the entire venue, but a bag of quality potpourri adds a scent strong enough for the bride to experience as she walks down the aisle.

Wild Rice

- Rice can be harmful to small animals when thrown outdoors. Save your rice throwing for the ceremony by adding wild rice to your flower girl baskets. Wild rice contains an assortment of neutral colors such as tan, black and white. These colors match a wide range of wedding color schemes and styles. Encourage the flower girls to sprinkle the rice lightly rather than cover the entire aisle so that the rice is easy to clean up.



***The Ring Bearer**

Preparing and Outfitting Your Ring Bearer

What is a Ring Bearer?

A ring bearer is usually a young boy between the ages of 4 and 8 who has a special connection to the bride and groom. He may be related to them, or just be a family friend. He walks down the aisle immediately after the flower girl, or last bridesmaid, with the wedding rings tied to a small pillow.

How to Choose a Ring Bearer:

Look for a responsible young man who is important in your life, and will take his role seriously. If you are having trouble choosing between two ring bearers, there's no reason why you can't have two ring bearers. Give them each a ring to carry and send them down the aisle together. Or, if you're having a long train, get two boys to act as pages or trainbearers instead. Avoid choosing someone who is too young – he will be confused and perhaps scared. An older boy may be more suited for a job such as reader. If your only choices are unsuitable or not that close to you, there's is no reason why you have to have a ring bearer – simply give the rings to the best man to hold.

Can a Ring Bearer be a Girl?

Absolutely! Depending on how feminine your ring bearer is, she may wish to have some flower petals on her pillow as well, and wear a dress that matches the flower girl's.

Preparing Your Ring Bearer For His Role, and Calming the Nerves

I recommend buying a book about being a ring bearer- he'll know what his role is, and understand it's importance. Seat his parents on the aisle, near the front so that he can see them when he walks down the aisle and during the ceremony itself. Ask a groomsman to be his "buddy" and make sure he uses the restroom before the ceremony. You may wish to ask his parents to cut down on the sugar intake the morning of the wedding. Avoid the pressure on him by tying only fake rings to the pillow, and wait to give him the pillow until immediately before he goes down the aisle. Also, ask his parents to bring a change of clothes – young girls are usually happy to wear dressy clothes all day, but young boys are often itching to get out of them! Most importantly, remember the younger your ring bearer, the more you have to be prepared to be okay with whatever happens. If you're the perfectionist type, choose an older ring bearer, or go without.

What He Should Wear:

Some people love the look of "mini-groomsmen" where the ring bearer wears a tiny tuxedo. If you're dressing the flower girl in a white dress, rather than matching the bridesmaids, you may wish to find a white outfit for the ring bearer as well. For the littlest ring bearers, an Eton jacket with short pants is a classic.

Where to Find a Ring Bearer Suit or Outfit

The place where you are renting the tuxedo from should have child's sizes available to rent. You can find ring bearer suits at bridal shops, children's clothing stores, and department stores. Make sure you choose something relatively inexpensive, since the ring bearer's parents typically pay for it. To start your search, check out [Snips n' Snails](#), or [The Best Dressed Child](#). If you're looking for an outfit in a specific color or fabric, [Pegeen](#) has a wide array of choices.



1. The wedding ring bearer is typically a boy between 3-7 years old. Younger children are harder to control, so you should take into account how mature your prospective ring bearer is. Usually a younger cousin or nephew is chosen for this position. The ring bearer's job is to walk down the aisle carrying a silk or lace wedding ring pillow holding the rings. Usually fake rings are placed on the pillow and the best man and maid of honor hold onto the real rings for safekeeping. The fake rings can be secured onto the pillow with a ribbon. The ring bearer's attire depends on how formal the wedding ceremony is and can range from a mini-tuxedo or suit, to kakis and a dress shirt. It is usually optional for the ring bearer to stand with the wedding attendants during the ceremony. If the ring bearer wants to stand with the rest of the wedding attendants for the ceremony, you may want to have a seat waiting in the front row in case he changes his mind.

2. Ring Barer or Ring Bearer? According to the New Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus of the English Language (1,248 pages), the word "Bearer" is correct. And I quote: "A servant or messenger...someone."

**OFFICIAL RING BEARER
CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION**

THIS CERTIFICATE IS AWARDED TO

in recognition of valuable service to the wedding of:



11 April 2009

Reverend Steve Whitters

***Other Certificates Given By Reverend Whitters**

Bible Bearers
Bible Readers
Coin Bearers
Fiddler Player
Junior Bridesmaid
Junior Groomsmen
Little Groomsman
Page Boys
Pet Certificates
Vail/Train Carrier
Ushers
Woodland Fairy
World's Best Daughter
World's Best Son
Young Musicians,

Or any other certificates stipulated by the Wedding Couple.

A **page boy** is a young male attendant at a wedding or cotillion.

This type of wedding attendant is less common than it used to be, but is still a way of including young relatives or the children of relatives and friends in a wedding. A page is often seen at British royal weddings. There may be many pages for effect at cotillions.

In a formal wedding or a white wedding, the page may be involved with the following:

- A ring bearer is a special page, who carries the wedding rings for the bridal party. This is a modern term, and it is perfectly correct to refer to the Ring bearer.
- Traditionally, page boys may carry the bride's train, especially if she is wearing a dress with a long train.

Ring Bearers and page boys are usually nephews or young brothers and are generally no younger than about 5 nor older than 9 or 10.

Coin Bearers

The **coin bearer** is similar page who marches on the wedding aisle to bring the wedding coins.

Traditionally, the wedding coins are brought to the front by Coin Bearer. The wedding coins symbolize prosperity and unity.

***Bible Bearers**

Usually, this role is played by young kids. They walk up the aisle to bring the bible.

Bible Readers

Readers are specific personnel who will read out loud portions of the Bible or other items the Bride and Groom so designate.

**EACH OF THE ABOVE
WILL RECEIVED A CERTIFICATE
FROM REVEREND WHITTERS**

I will give a handmade certificate to each flower girl, ring bearer, reader, etc. They will also receive the following (with parents blessing).



Include Your Pet

(Unique Wedding Ideas - Pets in the Wedding Party)



Here's how to incorporate your furry family member into your big day.

On your wedding day, you want to be surrounded by your entire family. Does that include Fido? It can: More and more couples are making their pets a part of the big-day festivities. Read on to “bone up” on the basics.

List of Mutt-Dos

For starters, consider your pet’s personality. Is he comfortable around strangers or does he bark up a storm? Think about where you’d like to hold your event. Pooches might not be permitted at a church, synagogue or indoor reception venue, so check first. Once you’ve booked your spots, confirm the details. Is a security deposit required in case your dog has an accident? Will he have to be leashed? Once you’re clear on the specifics, you can embark on the big-day plans.

Best Attendant in Show

You have many options for the part your pet can play. "A small dog or a cat could be carried down the aisle by a junior Bridesmaid in a basket decorated with flowers," offers Kimberly Schlegel Whitman, a Dallas-based wedding designer and author of *Dog Parties*. She suggests having a larger dog walked on a leash made of ribbon with the Bride’s and groom’s names printed on it. If you’d rather not give your pet an active role, you can display his photo, mention him in your toast or include him on the "who’s who" list in your ceremony program.

Hush Puppy

If your dog will be taking part in your ceremony, you should arrange for him to be at the rehearsal so you can have him practice walking down the aisle with you or his escort. Someone should plan to hold the leash during the ceremony, and also to have treats and water on hand to quickly quell any disruptions. A relative or a responsible guest can plan to escort Fido out of the area if he becomes restless.

Doggy Duds

To up the fun factor, dress your canine in wedding-worthy attire. Try Pinkbellygifts.com for pup-sized wedding gowns and tuxes, Quintessentialpet.com for a bow tie or

Glamourdog.com for a tiara. To completely "collar-coordinate," ask your florist to fit Fido with a wreath in your wedding colors, or affix a single bloom to his collar.

Party Poocher

If you don't want your pup around the entire time, arrange for his pickup or hire a dog sitter (perhaps your groomer or vet if you know him well). Arm your sitter with plastic bags and paper towels in case of accidents.

Bone Appétit

With all of the excitement, attention and activity on your big day, your pet will have worked up a major appetite. Bring along some of his favorite food and serve it in a fancy or festive bowl. Most of all, remember to enjoy the party and your pet attendant's company. Happy tails to you!

Ring Bearer

If your best friend will be the ring bearer, make sure you use fake rings just in case your friend goes for a walk on his own.

Flower Girl

Most pets look great with flowers. Just make sure the flowers are not too long so that she doesn't step on them while taking the stroll down the aisles. Also, don't use too many flowers as to completely cover her up.

***Entrance Of The Bridal Party**

The Bridal Party Enters with the Junior Bride's Maid with their compliment of Best Men. Next comes "Maid-of-Honor" **entering last** with the Best Man. The Flower Girl and Ring Bearer come next. If they do not come together, then the Ring Bearer proceeds first. Normally, the flower girls always proceed the Bride and her father. Bridesmaids and Men of Honor **DO NOT** cross each other's paths. In other words, there should be no walking in front of anybody. It's bad for the photo takers and especially the photographers.

If the Bridesmaids are entering with the men; then the same goes with them. The Best Man goes with the Maid-Of-Honor ARM-IN-ARM.

Sometimes it is best that they line up by height, rather than friendship, EXCPET FOR THE MAID OF HONOR AND BEST MAN. They will always remain first in line – closet to the Officiant and the Bride & Groom.

If the Officiant is to be in the processional, he/she will always go first.

3rd Musical Rendition, Usually “Here Comes The Bride”

1. Bride’s Processional: Wagner’s “Here Comes the Bride” used to be the standard selection. However, more and more Brides are choosing songs that hold special meaning to them.

Bride's Processional

1. This is one of the most elegant features of the wedding. As each participant enters to partake of his or her role in the ceremony, take it slowly, do not hurry, and most of all watch where you're walking. Make sure you're not stepping on gowns, make sure you're not bare-footed, and if you're in back of someone, make sure you leave enough room between the two of you.
2. One of the grandest part of any wedding ceremony is when the bridal party makes its entrance. The air is full of anticipation, and the groom anxiously awaits his first glimpse of his Bride in her wedding dress. But do you know what order your bridal party should walk in? And who escorts the mother of the Bride?

Bride on Groom's left side

The Bride stands on Groom's left side for Christian ceremonies. This custom dates back to ancient times when jealous suitors wanted to steal the Bride away. Most people are right handed, so the groom would be able to protect his Bride if she stood on his left side.

Different Types of Wedding Processionals

1. The order of wedding processionals follows a general pattern, but varies according to religious traditions. For example, here is a Catholic wedding processional:
2. The priest, groom, and best man enter through a side door and wait at the altar.
3. The groomsmen and Bridesmaids walk down in pairs, starting with the two who will stand farthest from the Bride and Groom, and ending with the best man and maid of honor.
4. The ring bearer and/or flower girl.
5. The Bride and her father, or other close family member. The Bride walks on the left side. If the Bride's escort is her father, he leads her to the front of the aisle, then takes his seat next to the Bride's mother.
6. However, for a Jewish wedding processional, the order goes something like this:
The Rabbi and/or cantor
Grandparents of the Bride, who are then seated in the first row
Grandparents of the Groom, who are then seated in the first row
Groomsmen, walking in pairs
Best man
The groom, who is escorted by his parents

Bridesmaids
Maid or Matron of Honor
Ring bearer and/or flower girl
The Bride, escorted by her parents

7. And for a Protestant wedding, this is the traditional order of a wedding processional:

The mothers of the Bride and Groom are seated after all guests are seated, and immediately before the start of the processional music. They are usually escorted to their seats by a brother of the Bride or Groom, or by another usher.

After they are seated, the officiate, groom and best man enter by a side door and wait at the altar.

Groomsmen may also enter by a side door, or can escort the Bridesmaids.

Bridesmaids
Ring bearer and/or flower girl
Maid or Matron of Honor

8. The Bride, escorted by her father or other close male family member or friend. At the front of the aisle, her escort can remain standing with her until the minister asks "Who gives this woman in marriage?" to which he responds "I do," or "Her mother and I do." However, some people feel this tradition is old fashioned and sexist, and choose to forgo it. In such a case, her escort walks with the Bride to the front of the aisle, and then takes his seat in the front row.

9. For a non-denominational ceremony, a secular ceremony, or a non-traditional ceremony, you can either borrow liberally from one of these traditions, or make up your own rules.

10. In all cases, the Bride traditionally stands on the left, and the groom on the right. This dates back to medieval times when the groom might need to defend his Bride in the middle of the ceremony, and wanted to leave his right hand, his sword hand, free. While few grooms even carry a sword anymore, the tradition has lasted.

A wedding processional using two aisles

1. People tackle the problem of two aisles in a variety of ways. You can choose to only use one aisle, but this means that many of your guests will feel far from the action. I often advise couples to do the processional up one aisle, and the recessional down the other. Another alternative is to have Bridesmaids walk up one aisle, and groomsmen up the other. The Bride and groom can then each choose an aisle to enter through.

2. A wedding processional with a small bridal party. If you only have a few people in your bridal party, it's a good idea to send them up one by one.

For example, if you had a best man, maid of honor, flower girl, and ring bearer this should be the order

Groom takes his place at the front

Best man enters

Maid of Honor walks up aisle

Ring Bearer

Flower Girl

Bride, with escort if she has one.

3. With such a small wedding party, it's probably not formal enough to warrant a formal seating of the mothers and grandmothers. However, if you still want to do this, let the best man seat the grandmothers and the groom seat the mothers as part of their entrances.

4. **Don't forget to smile!** It's a good idea to have either a coordinator, or a friend with a written list helping to line up the bridal party and telling each person when to go. They can stand just beyond where the guests can see them. They should also remind each person to smile when they're walking down the aisle!

Entering By The Love Of Many

The entrance of the bride is the ceremony's first emotional high point. The seating of VIPs, the entrance of the bridal party and the groom, all take place before her. If an aisle runner is to be used, it is deployed now, prior to the entrance of the ring bearer and a flower girl who is dropping petals (and they are the only ones who should walk on an aisle runner before a bride!). All of this accentuates her entrance, for wedding ceremonies are female centric events. How the bride enters, and with whom, are very important decisions for her (and her alone).

Her entrance may be accompanied by:

Her Father

Her Mother

Her Siblings

Her Father and Stepfather

Her Father and Mother

Her Children

Her Close Friend(s) in lieu of absent or deceased family members.

Her Groom. In other words, the couple walks down the aisle together.

Unescorted (which is a wonderful statement of equality).

A bride's entrance can be an opportunity to show gratitude toward someone very special in her life by giving them the honor of escorting her down the aisle.

There are no rules on this - so follow your heart.



Presentation/Giving Away Of The Bride (And/Or Groom) #1 of 2

Some ministers and couples are uncomfortable with this feature being placed so late in the ceremony. Thus, in some weddings, it is done sooner. Please remember, there should only be two "I Do's" during the wedding. These are for the Bride and groom respectively. Therefore, the person giving the Bride away, should never say: "I do".

Who gives this woman to be married to this man in holy matrimony?

=====

Who presents _____ to be married to _____?

=====

Who presents these individuals to be given in [Holy Matrimony] marriage?

=====

Who presents this woman and supports her decision to be joined in marriage with this man?

=====

[REVEREND] With whom do you come and whose blessings accompany you.

[Responder] She comes with me, her father, and is accompanied by all of her family's blessings.

=====

I rarely have a bride who wants me to use the word "give" (it does imply a very sad time for women when they were considered property) so I almost always say "Who brings this woman to be married today?" One alternative that many of my Brides like is: "Who brings this woman and with whose blessings does she come?" and the response is, "I bring her with the love and blessings of all her family and friends." Older Brides especially like this one... and I do too!

=====

One of the most understated but deepest relationships in human life is that between a caring father and a loving daughter. One of the rare occasions that this relationship is acknowledged is at a wedding ceremony. Mr. Jimmy Johnson, today represents his family, but in this special gesture, he is here to support the love he has for his daughter. So it is

with great pleasure that I now ask; who gives this woman to be married to this man? “I, Mr. Jimmy Johnson do”.

Bride’s father places Bride’s hand in Groom’s hand and then returns to the other guests.

=====

"Juvenia, you have protected and supported Bianca for her entire life. Do you accept that this responsibility will now belong to Michael whom she has chosen to be her husband?"

=====

Clergy: "Mr. John Whitters [father's name], for the past 24 years it has been your labor of love to protect Diane [Bride's name] and keep her safe from harm. Are you now ready to share that responsibility with the man she has chosen to be her husband?"

Father: "I am" (Kisses daughter, shakes groom's hand and walks to his seat)

=====

I would highly suggest that the person who gives the Bride away, that they **do not say** “I do” to this question. In several occasions, when they say “I Do”, a lot of the congregation will still not know “who” is. In a lot of cases, the Father is deceased, in combat somewhere, or just cannot make it to the wedding! Therefore, the bride has asked her son, or uncle or whomever she wants to give her away, and the congregation is left baffled.

It would be far better to present yourself as:

I, Mr. Kennedy do give my daughter away to Mr. Johnson.

I, George Washington give my mother away to John.

I, Jack Benny, as the father of the Bride do give my daughter to Mr. Steve Johnson, the Groom.

I, Mr. Samuel Adams and her mother do give my daughter blessings, and presents her to the Mr. John Jackson, the Groom.

I, Thomas Jefferson, the son of the bride, do present my mom to Grover Cleveland this day.

=====

***Presentation/Giving Away Of The Bride #2 of 2**

(And/Or Groom)

Selection #1

Who gives this man and woman to be married to each other?

Selection #2

Our Lord Jesus Christ instructed us about marriage when he said in the Book of Mark, Chapter 10, "For from the very first He made man and woman to be joined together permanently in marriage; therefore a man is to leave his father and mother, and he and his wife are united so that they are no longer two, but one." Within the spirit of this scripture, _____ and _____ would like to receive the blessing of their parents on this holy union.

Parents please rise. Do you give your blessing to this man and woman to be married to each other?

Parents say, "We do."

Selection#3

Being assured that your love and your choice of each other as lifelong companions is in God's will and that you have your families' blessings, I now ask: Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

Selection #4

This wedding is also a celebration of family. It is the blending of two families that have been separate up to this moment, but united from this day forward – blending their different traditions, strengthening the family tree. To honor this uniting of the families, (Groom and Bride) wish to ask their parent's blessing.

(To Bride's Mom and Dad)

_____ and _____ do you offer this couple your goodwill? Do you welcome (groom) as a member of your family and give him your love and affection? PARENTS SAY: We do.

(To Groom's Mom and Dad)

_____ and _____, do you offer this couple your goodwill? Do you welcome (Bride) as a member of your family and give her your love and affection? PARENTS SAY: We do.

=====

Bride, is it true that you come of your own free will and accord?

[Bride] Yes, it is true.

[PRIEST] With whom do you come and whose blessings accompany you.

[FATHER] She comes with me, her father, and is accompanied by all of her family's blessings.

One of the most understated but deepest relationships in human life is that between a caring father and a loving daughter. One of the rare occasions that this relationship is acknowledged is at a wedding ceremony.

Bride's father ____, today, represents his family, but even more important in this special gesture, he stands here today in his own loving support of his daughter and to give her hand to another man's hand for her safe keeping. So it is with great pleasure that I now ask, (who gives this woman to be married to this man?) OR (who stands in support of this marriage?) (father) ____ : I do. OR her mother and I do (Bride's father hugs his daughter shakes Groom's hand and places Bride's hand in Grooms' hand and then sits down.)

Will the parents of G_____ and B_____ please rise, before God and all who are gathered here to affirm your blessings, support and encouragement. I remind you that although both G_____ and B_____ will remain part of your separate heritage, they are no longer your separate children. G_____ and B_____ are here before God and this company of witnesses to become one. Therefore, I now ask you, do you offer your blessings and loving support to this marriage? Reply: We do.

Do You Want To Give The Groom Away Also?

Do you give your blessings to accept this man into your family? If so, please say "We Do!"

Giving Away The Bride - History

The first marriages were by capture. The Groom, with the help of his warrior friends (his best men), would steal into another tribe's camp and kidnap the woman of his choice. His friends covered his back and fought off any others with an interest in the woman. As the invading party fought off the other men, he would hold her with his left hand because his right hand was his sword hand. This is believed to be the root of the custom of the Bride standing on the Groom's left in the wedding ceremony. It was also the duty of his friends to hide the couple so her family couldn't find her. Because honey and the moon were tied to fertility, the couple only drank honey mead and remained in hiding for one full lunar cycle, (twenty-eight days), a honeymoon. By the time they were found, the Bride was already pregnant.

Marriage by purchase became the preferred practice, being less stressful for all involved. The word wedding is from the Anglo-Saxon word "wedd," meaning to wager or gamble. It referred to the vow the man gave to marry another man's daughter or to the goods or Bride price. Women were brought for breeding purposes by the Grooms and sold for land, status or political alliances and, occasionally, cash.

Arranged marriages also took place and neither the Bride nor Groom had a say in it. Most of these deals took place at the birth of the girl for the same purposes as marriage by purchase. Some couples never saw each other until the groom lifted the Bride's veil at which point, if either didn't like what they saw, it was too late.

Directly descended from marriage by purchase when the father handed his daughter over to her new master. In the Middle Ages, in the age of courtly love and the romantic ideal, it became "Coemptio", a letting go, a mock purchase. Today it is connected with the love between a father and his daughter. The father hands over the responsibility of caring for his daughter to the man she has chosen to marry.

Please remember, you are never giving away your daughter, or your son. In fact you are gaining a whole new family.

When you give your daughter away, it is appropriate to lift her Vail (if wearing one) and give her a kiss on her cheek. Furthermore, it is also appropriate to shake hands with the Groom and offer your congratulations, and support.



Facing The Audience - The Ultimate Presentation



As a California wedding Officiant as well as a designer of wedding ceremonies I teach my couples that- clearly, and without exception, facing your guests is the most dramatic, visually engaging, and photogenic change you can make to your wedding ceremony. Let's face it, your guests are dying to see you, and to share this most wonderful of a lifetime experience with you, - let them!

Your wedding photography will improve radically. Your guests will for once, not only be treated to seeing you as bride and groom, but in hearing you take your vows as well. And the elegance and openness of your pose tells everyone how proud you are of the loved one standing beside you. At your reception, you will listen to their compliments all night long.

Breaking with the old fashioned and visually dysfunctional look of the old style format, which places your guests in the role of mere observers, this forward and open format connects the audience with the bride and groom. Having established this visual connection, your wedding ceremony now has a far stronger sense of family and friendship with those attending.

Just as importantly, all of your guests will get to hear every word of your ceremony as your voices will now project into your audience, rather than away from them. The attractiveness of the bride's beautiful gown, her lovely bouquet, the gowns and tuxedos of the bridal party, as well as the floral arrangements of the bride's maids, are all brought fully to bear before the on looking audience as seen above. This format has no equal. When performing your ceremony, I will stand offside of you- known as speaking 'offset.'

While at other times I will stand in center aisle facing you along with your guests. Clearly, this is the ultimate presentation of a bride and groom in a wedding ceremony.

Please remember that there are many way for the Bride and Groom to stand:

- 1) Facing their backs to the audience.
- 2) Facing the audience.
- 3) Facing each other – which is my preferred stance.



Backs To Audience - The Traditional Format



As this picture points out, I am NOT a big advocate of brides and grooms and bridal parties with their backs to the congregation. Indeed 85% of all couples who ask me to officiate for them choose to face each other. But 85% isn't 100%, and in any given year one or more couples will ask to have their ceremony in the traditional, backs turned format.

There are good reasons for this. Some couples, especially the brides, will want their ceremony in the traditional format because that's what they're most familiar with and it's the look of a wedding ceremony they have always dreamed of. For them, changing the format changes the dream, something they don't want to do.

Other couples, and this is the most common concern when considering facing forward-fear they would be intimidated by the forward format. I have helped couples of all confidence levels mentally make the change and choose the forward format but some couples truly want only the traditional format.

Here's the bottom line: I want you to pick the ceremony format that's right and comfortable for you. Facing forward is not a requirement of mine and never will be. If you want the traditional, backs turned arrangement then let's design your beautiful wedding in that format. Formatting, whether forward or traditional, is only one aspect of any given

wedding ceremony. How you perform and the elegance and poise you exhibit far outweigh whether you faced forward or had your backs turned.

So follow your heart and choose the format that's right for you. And please remember: my first few thousand weddings were all backs turned so I'm really quite capable of bring out the absolute best with ANY format.

Facing Each Other - Hand In Hand



The third or last presentation is where the couple face each other and hold hands. This is the most picturesque of all three. It is good for the photographer, your audience, yourselves, and of course the Officiate as well. 85% of all my wedding couples chose this format.

Bottom line: It's the Wedding Couple's and your choice . . . of course depending on logistics and any setup that may be contradictive to the above.

***Angelology One Liners**

A woman has two smiles that an angel might envy, the smile that accepts a lover before words are uttered, and the smile that lights on the first born babe, and assures it of a mother's love.

Am I dead Angel-face? Because those wings are heavenly!

Am I dead, Angel? Cause this must be heaven!

Are you lost? 'Cause it's so strange to see an angel so far from heaven.

Are you religious? Good, because I'm the answer to your prayers.

Baby, somebody better call God, cuz he's missing an Angel!

Be an angel to someone else whenever you can, as a way of thanking God for the help your angel has given you.

Can I get your picture to prove to all my friends that Angels really do exist.

Checking the back of her shirt. Where's the tag that says "made in heaven"?

Children often have imaginary playmates. I suspect that half of them are really their guardian angels.

Did it hurt? "Did what hurt?" When you fell out of heaven?

Did it hurt when you fell out of heaven?

Do you believe in modern revelation? cause I believe I'm standing in front of an angel.

Don't mind me, I'm an astronomer checking out heavenly bodies.

Every man contemplates an angel in his future self.

Every time you hear a bell ring, it means that some angel's just got his wings.

For a moment I thought I had died and gone to heaven. Now I see that I am very much alive, and heaven has been brought to me.

God always has an angel of help for those who are willing to do their duty.

Hey Angels, how's Heaven?

How was heaven when you left it?

How wonderful it must be to speak the language of the angels, with no words for hate and a million words for love!

I didn't believe in heaven, until I saw you.

I didn't know that Angels could fly so low!

I didn't see any stars in the sky tonight, the most heavenly body is standing right next to me.

I think I can die happy now, cause I've just seen a piece of heaven.

I wasn't sure if you were a beautiful angel or a sexy devil, but now that I'm close I see heaven in your eyes.

I hope Angels know CPR because you take my breath away.

I know I don't have a chance, but I just wanted to hear Angels talk.

I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free.

I sneezed because God blessed me with you.

I think I can die happy now, cause I've just seen a piece of heaven.

I wasn't sure if you were a beautiful angel or a sexy devil, but now that I'm close I see heaven in your eyes.

If I had a rose for every time I thought of you, I would walk in my garden forever.

I'm no angel, but I've spread my wings a bit.

I'm surrounded by angels...but I call them my best friends.

Insight is better than eyesight when it comes to seeing an angel.

Is that a ladder in your pants or a stairway to heaven?"

Is that baby oil on your forehead? Cause you shine like an Angel.

It must be a day off in heaven for an Angel like you to be amongst us.

It's true that every time you hear a bell, an angel gets its wings. But what they don't tell you is that every time you hear a mouse trap snap, an angel gets set on fire.

Last night I sent an Angel 2 watch over u while u were sleeping, but it came back early. So I asked why? It stated that Angels don't watch over other Angels!

Pay attention to your dreams - God's angels often speak directly to our hearts when we are asleep.

Somebody better call God, cuz he's missing an angel!

Sometimes we are like an angel with one wing, and we necessarily need the other wing of a similar angel to keep flying.

Speak of the devil....or should I say "Angel"?

The guardian angels of life sometimes fly so high as to be beyond our sight, but they are always looking down upon us.

The reason angels can fly is because they take themselves lightly.

There are 20 angels in the world 11 are playing, 8 are sleeping and 1 of them is standing in front of me.

We are each of us angels with only one wing and we can only fly by embracing each other.

We must be in heaven, because I see two beautiful Angels standing in front of me.

What time do you have to be back in heaven?

When angels visit us, we do not hear the rustle of wings, nor feel the feathery touch of the breast of a dove; but we know their presence by the love they create in our hearts.

When God made you, he was showing off.

When I marry, I wonder if God will be mad that I stole one of his Angels.
Where do you hide your wings?

(With hands on shoulders) Oh, those are shoulder blades, I thought they were wings.

Would you grab my arm so I can tell my friends I've been touched by an angel?

Would you touch me so I can tell my friends I've been touched by an Angel?

Wow. You look like an angel. Welcome to Earth.

(You) Can I borrow your cell phone? (Her) Sure why? (You) I need to phone heaven and tell God I found the missing Angels!

You're a twinkle in my eye and an Angel from the sky.

You've got something on your back! (What?) Angel wings!

To Be Double Checked

A woman has two smiles that an angel might envy, the smile that accepts a lover before words are uttered, and the smile that lights on the first born babe, and assures it of a mother's love.

Am I dead, Angel? Cause this must be heaven!

Are you lost? 'Cause it's so strange to see an angel so far from heaven.

Are you religious? Good, because I'm the answer to your prayers.

Baby, somebody better call God, cuz he's missing an Angel!

Be an angel to someone else whenever you can, as a way of thanking God for the help your angel has given you.

Can I get your picture to prove to all my friends that Angels really do exist.

Children often have imaginary playmates. I suspect that half of them are really their guardian angels.

Did it hurt? "Did what hurt?" When you fell out of heaven?

Do you believe in modern revelation? cause I believe I'm standing in front of an angel.

Every man contemplates an angel in his future self.

Every time you hear a bell ring, it means that some angel's just got his wings.

For a moment I thought I had died and gone to heaven. Now I see that I am very much alive, and heaven has been brought to me.

God always has an angel of help for those who are willing to do their duty.

Hey Angels, how's Heaven?

How was heaven when you left it?

How wonderful it must be to speak the language of the angels, with no words for hate and a million words for love!

I didn't know that Angels could fly so low!

I know I don't have a chance, but I just wanted to hear Angels talk.

I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free.

I think I can die happy now, cause I've just seen a piece of heaven.

I'm no angel, but I've spread my wings a bit.

Insight is better than eyesight when it comes to seeing an angel.

Is that baby oil on your forehead? Cause you shine like an Angel.

It must be a day off in heaven for an Angel like you to be amongst us.

It's true that every time you hear a bell, an angel gets its wings. But what they don't tell you is that every time you hear a mouse trap snap, an angel gets set on fire.

Last night I sent an Angel 2 watch over u while u were sleeping, but it came back early. So I asked why? It stated that Angels don't watch over other Angels!

Pay attention to your dreams - God's angels often speak directly to our hearts when we are asleep.

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When I marry, I wonder if God will be mad that I stole one of his Angels.
Would you touch me so I can tell my friends I've been touched by an Angel?

Wow. You look like an angel. Welcome to Earth.

You're a twinkle in my eye and an Angel from the sky.

You've got something on your back! (What?) Angel wings!

Welcome

(The Call To Worship)

1. *“As a minister of Christ, and in behalf of the families of the Bride and groom, I whole heartedly welcome all those who have come to witness this couple in wedding.”*
2. *Before we begin, I ask that any married couple to take part of this marriage as if it is yours also. Therefore, I ask that you take your spouse’s hand for the duration of this ceremony.*
3. *Furthermore, when I state that “you may kiss the Bride”, this would also be an appropriate time to do the same.*
4. *Q: Who here knows how many commandments are stated in the Bible?*

A: Twelve. (John13:34). Jesus said, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love another”.

That said, I believe that _____ and _____ are keeping the 11th commandment today by receiving, and honoring each other in holy matrimony.

Dearly beloved, we are gathered together here in the sight of God to join together this Man and this Woman in holy Matrimony; which is an honorable estate, instituted of God in Paradise, and into which holy estate these two persons present come now to be joined. Therefore if any man can show any just cause, why they may not lawfully be joined together, by God's Law, or the Laws of the Realm; let him now speak, or else hereafter forever behold his peace.

And also, speaking unto the persons that shall be married, he shall say,

I require and charge you both, as ye will answer at the dreadful day of judgment when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed, that if either of you know any impediment, why ye may not be lawfully joined together in Matrimony, that ye confess it. For ye be well assured, that so many as be coupled together otherwise than God's Word doth allow are not joined together by God; neither is their Matrimony lawful.

[PRIEST] We have come together here in celebration of the joining together of _____Bride_____ and _____groom_____. There are many things to say about marriage. Much wisdom concerning the joining together of two souls, has come our way through all

paths of belief, and from many cultures. With each union, more knowledge is gained and more wisdom gathered. Though we are unable to give all this knowledge to these two, who stand before us, we can hope to leave with them the knowledge of love and its strengths and the anticipation of the wisdom that comes with time. The law of life is love unto all beings. Without love, life is nothing, without love, death has no redemption. Love is anterior to Life, posterior to death, initial of Creation and the exponent of Earth. If we learn no more in life, let it be this.

Marriage is a bond to be entered into only after considerable thought and reflection. As with any aspect of life, it has its cycles, its ups and its downs, its trials and its triumphs. With full understanding of this, Groom and Bride have come here today to be joined as one in marriage. Others would ask, at this time, who gives the Bride in marriage, but, as a woman is not property to be bought and sold, given and taken, I ask simply if she comes of her own will and if she has her family's blessing.

~ *Opening Reading* ~

"Above you are the stars, below you are the stones.
As time passes, remember...
Like a star should your love be constant,
Like the earth should your love be firm.
Possess one another, yet be understanding.
Have patience with each other,
For storms will come, and they will go quickly,
Forced to dissipate in the light of your love.
Be free in giving of affection and of warmth.
Have no fear, and let not the ways
Or words of the unenlightened give you unease.
For your Love, Faith, and Friendship are with you,
Now and always!"

Out of affection and honor for _____ and _____, we are here today, before God, to witness their vows, which will unite them in marriage. To this moment they bring the fullness of their hearts as a treasure to share with one another. They bring the spark and spirit which is uniquely their own, and out of which has grown for some time, and will continue to grow, deepen, and strengthen, the precious reality of their life together.

We share joy with them this special day in their lives. This day they affirm and declare each other as life partners in a celebration of love, which will bring empowerment to their life's path together.

Let us all give our blessing and love to _____ and _____ during this ceremony as they pledge their love to one another. May the wisdom and spirit of all-giving and all-

understanding Love pervade the words spoken and the love given here today, that these vows offered will remain strong and true in the presence of love all the days of their lives.

May all of us present feel the strength and depth of _____ and _____'s love and experience a rebirth of the power of love in our own lives.

To make this relationship work, therefore, takes more than love. It takes trust, to know in your hearts that you want only the best for each other. It takes dedication, to stay open to one another, to learn and grow, even when it is difficult to do so. And it takes faith, to go forward together without knowing what the future holds for you both. While love is our natural state of being, these other qualities are not as easy to come by. They are not a destination, but a journey.

The true art of married life is an inner spiritual journey. It is a mutual enrichment, a give and take between two personalities, a mingling of two endowments, which diminishes neither, but enhances both.

Selection #2

If it were possible to begin this ceremony by gathering together all the wishes of happiness for _____ and _____ from all present here. . . if we could gather together those precious wishes of affection and our very fondest hopes and turn them into music, we would be listening now to a most inspiring anthem, composed of the most harmonious notes possible to produce.

Even though this is not possible, just speaking of it should assure _____ and _____ that our hearts are attuned to theirs in these moments so meaningful to all of us. For what greater thing is there for two human souls than to feel that they are joined together to strengthen each other in all labor, to minister to each other in all sorrow, to share with each other in all gladness.

Marriage is an act of faith and a personal commitment as well as a moral and physical union between the parties. Marriage has been described as the best and most important relationship that can exist between two human beings; the construction of their love and trust into a single growing energy of spiritual life. It is a moral commitment that requires and deserves daily attention since no earthly happiness exceeds that of a reciprocal satisfaction in the conjugal state. Marriage should be a life-long consecration to the ideal of loving kindness, backed with the will to make it last.

Selection #3

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony. The bond and covenant of marriage was established by God in creation, and our Lord Jesus Christ adorned this

manner of life by his presence and first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. It signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, and Holy Scripture commends it to be honored among all people.

The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity and, when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord. Therefore marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.

Into this holy union ____ and ____ now come to be joined. If any of you can show just cause why they may not lawfully be married, speak now, or else for every hold your peace.

(Said to the wedding couple) I require and charge you both, here in the presence of God, that if either of you know any reason why you may not be united in marriage lawfully, and in accordance with God's Word, you do now confess it.

Selection #4

Before God we have come together today, for marriage is one of the most sacred of His wishes, and now, through me, He joins you together in one of the holiest of bonds.

Selection #5

Dear family and friends we have gathered here today to joyfully acknowledge the wedding of ____ and _____. They have requested your presence on this memorable occasion in order that you might share with them the pledging of their everlasting love on this day of commitment. Let us pray in silence as we wish them all the happiness in their new life together.

Selection #6

We have gathered here today, in the presence of family and friends to join ____ and ____ in Matrimony.

Selection #7

_____, _____ and their families extend a warm welcome to all of you. They are elated that you could be here today for this joyous marriage celebration.

(To Bride and groom)

We have come together this day to uphold you, _____, and you, _____, as you exchange your vows of marriage. We celebrate with you the love you have discovered in each other, and we support your decision to continue your life's journeys together as husband and wife.

(To congregation)

____ and ____ came together from different backgrounds and experiences. Through their marriage they do not leave those things behind, but instead form a new family that will broaden the circle of love and understanding in the world.

Whatever source of spiritual guidance you follow, I'm sure you will agree that as inhabitants of Planet Earth, we are one family.

With that in mind, ____ and ____ have asked me honor you - their immediate and extended families - by combining both of their individual spiritual traditions into this ceremony. The principles and sentiments expressed today will be very familiar to you all.

Selection #8

Marriage is a supreme sharing of experience, and an adventure in the most intimate of human relationships. It is the joyous union of two people whose comradeship and mutual understanding have flowered in love. Today _____ and _____ proclaim their love and commitment to the world, and we gather here to rejoice with and for them, in the new life they now undertake together.

The joy we feel now is a solemn joy, because the act of marriage has many consequences, both social and personal. Marriage requires "love", a word we often use with vagueness and sentimentality. We may assume that love is some rare and mystical event, when in fact it is our natural state of being. So what do we mean by love? When we love, we see things other people do not see. We see beneath the surface, to the qualities that make our beloved special and unique. To see with loving eyes, is to know inner beauty. To be loved is to be seen, and known, as we are known to no other. One who loves us, gives us a unique gift: a piece of ourselves, but a piece that only they could give us.

We who love, can look at each other's life and say, "I touched his life, " or, "I touched her life, " just as an artist might say, "I touched this canvas." Marriage is to belong to each other through a unique and diverse collaboration, like two threads crossing in different directions, yet weaving one tapestry together.

The secret of love and marriage is similar to that of religion itself. It is the emergence of the larger self. It is the finding of one's life by losing it. Such is the privilege of husband and wife - to be each himself, herself and yet another; to face the world strong, with the courage of two.

To make this relationship work, therefore, takes more than love. It takes trust, to know in your hearts that you want only the best for each other. It takes dedication, to stay open to one another, to learn and grow, even when it is difficult to do so. And it takes faith, to go forward together without knowing what the future holds for you both. While love is our

natural state of being, these other qualities are not as easy to come by. They are not a destination, but a journey.

The true art of married life is an inner spiritual journey. It is a mutual enrichment, a give and take between two personalities, a mingling of two endowments, which diminishes neither, but enhances both.

Selection #9

We are gathered here today to unite _____ and _____ in marriage. This celebration is but an outward sign of an inward union of heart, mind and spirit. This is a celebration of the joining of two souls already attuned to each other. When such a true bond already exists between a man and a woman, it is fitting that an outer acknowledgment be made. We are here to bear witness to the entry into the closer relationship as husband and wife of these beloved friends who are already one in spirit.

Selection #10

Dear family and friends, we have gathered here today, together in the sight of God, to witness and celebrate the marriage of _____ and _____.

They have requested your presence on this memorable occasion in order that you might share with them the pledging of their everlasting love on this day of commitment. Mutual love is one of the richest experiences and most precious gifts we know. Marriage is both a threshold and a continuing process in that experience. The relationship must continue to grow with care, nurture, and an unending awareness of each other's needs and feelings. It requires a solemn commitment, which is to be entered into reverently, but also with joy and celebration. In this we now share.

_____ and _____, I charge you with the responsibility to keep alive; to grow, to change, to maintain the capacity for wonder, for spontaneity, for humor; to remain pliable, warm and sensitive. I charge you to give fully; to show your real feelings, to save time for each other, no matter what demands are made upon your day. I charge you to see the meaning of life through the changing prism of your love; to nurture each other to fullness and wholeness, and in learning to love each other more deeply, learn to love the creation in which the mystery of your love has happened.

Selection #11

We come together not to mark the start of a relationship, but to recognize a bond that already exists. This marriage is one expression of the many varieties of love. Love is one, though its expressions are infinite.

It is fitting to speak briefly about love. We live in a world of joy and fear and search for meaning and strength in the seeming disorder. We discover the truest guideline to our quest when we realize love in all its magnitudes. Love is the eternal force of life. Love is the force that allows us to face fear and uncertainty with courage. For the giving of our

self in love is difficult, for you must learn to give of your love without total submission of yourself. Therefore, in your giving, give your joy, your sadness, your interest, your understanding, your knowledge – all expressions that make up life. But in this giving, remember to preserve yourself – your integrity, your individuality. This is the challenge of love within marriage.

Although you will be sharing one life, never forget, you are two separate people. Cherish and affirm your differences. Love each other. Keep your commitment primary. Together you will laugh and cry, be sick and well, be happy and angry, share and grow. Grow, sometimes together, sometimes separately. But never remain stagnant. Love and life are always changing, always new.

If you will insure a healthy lasting marriage, always, always value each other. Although you will disagree, remember to respect each other's feelings, needs and wants.

So it is our hope for you both that in all areas of your life together you will weave a durable fabric of mutual consolation and support and of help in time of trouble. May each of you achieve the ability to give of yourselves freely so that you will each live better lives and become greater persons.

Selection #12

_____ and _____, the relationship that you have nourished together stands for love that will blossom and grow with each passing day. Before you knew love, you were friends, and it was from this seed of friendship that is now your destiny. Marriage is the clasping of hands, the blending of hearts, the union of two lives as one. Marriage is caring as much about the welfare and happiness of your marriage partner as your own. It is not total absorption into each other. It is looking outward in the same direction together. Marriage makes burdens lighter because you divide them. It makes joys more intense because you share them. It makes you stronger, so that you can be involved with life in ways you dare not risk alone. To make your relationship work will take love. This is the core of your marriage and why you are here today. It will take trust, to know in your hearts that you truly want the best for each other. It will take dedication, to stay open and honest with one another – and to learn and grow together. It will take faith, to go forward together without knowing exactly what the future brings. And it will take commitment, to hold true to the journey you both promised today to share together. An intimate and secure relationship is not based on promises, but rather on trust, respect, faithfulness and the ability to forgive. A lasting marriage is based on all of these, bound together by love.

Selection #13

We must give ourselves in love, but we must not give ourselves away. As Saint Exupery said, "Love does not consist in gazing into each other's eyes, but in looking together in the same direction." That is why love must always say no to live in a closed world with just the perfume of the beloved and no other essences from nature or humanity.

So it is on this summer eve, let us rejoice yet know that we are here not just to observe but to participate in this marriage ceremony. May we all remember that the path of love is meant to be walked together with God and with all of humanity. No persons in a love relationship can have meaning apart from their family, their friends and their community.

Who gives their blessing to this marriage, and in the giving who says an enthusiastic “Yes!” to this new relationship?

Selection #14

A marriage between mature people is not an escape but a commitment shared by two individuals that becomes part of their commitment to themselves and society. Yet to love is also to accept the mystery of the loved one, and to refuse to violate that mystery.

***“In Memory Of” Ceremony**

At this time, Steve and Christine wish to pause to reflect upon others who have shaped their lives but are unable to be with us: Steve’s grandmothers: Ruth Whitters and Grammie Betty Hatfield; Steve’s grandfathers Frank Whitters and Andrew Hatfield and Christine’s grandfather: Grandpa-pa June Gonzales.

“Although death has separated us physically, faith and love have bound us eternally. Though we cannot see you, we know you are here spiritually. Though we cannot touch you, we feel the warmth of your smile, as we begin a new chapter in our lives. You have molded our spirits and touched our hearts. For this we thank you.”

This is where I would also mention and welcome any departed who could not make it here today, but are here in spirit.

"Let us take a moment to remember those who cannot be with us on this joyous day, though we know they are here in spirit. We remember them with fondness, and take their memories forward as we witness the creation of a new family." (followed by 20 seconds of silence).



TO ACKNOWLEDGE OUR ANCESTORS, THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US - -- MEANS THAT WE RECOGNIZE THAT WE DID NOT MAKE OURSELVES --- THAT THE LINE OF CREATION STRETCHES ALL THE WAY BACK, PERHAPS TO INFINITY.

THE GRACE WITH WHICH WE EMBRACE LIFE IS ALWAYS A MEASURE OF WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE.

IN THIS VEIN, WE WANT TO HONOR AND REMEMBER: _____

[YOU CAN NAME NAMES HERE---OR JUST SAY 'ALL THE GRANDPARENTS' AND/OR 'FAMILY MEMBERS'} WHO ARE NOT PRESENT PHYSICALLY, BUT WHO ARE IN JENN AND JIM'S HEARTS.

WE CAN FEEL ALL THEIR PRESENCES HERE TODAY, BLESSING THIS MARRIAGE.



"John and Mary would like all of you to join them in remembering and acknowledging all of our family and friends who cannot be with us at this moment but whom we know have us in their hearts as they are in ours today!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



"It is Bx and Gx's wish that as we get started today you all join with them in a moment to remember those who, for whatever reason, could not be here physically, but who are here in spirit and wishing them a lifetime of happiness."

Honoring those that couldn't be here today:

The flowers before you today are for Groom and Bride's relatives who have passed away and those that were not able to attend the wedding. Please join with me as we bow our heads to observe a moment of silence to honor the memory of those who are not with us today, but are here in spirit.



HONORING:

TO ACKNOWLEDGE OUR ANCESTORS, THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US -- MEANS THAT WE RECOGNIZE THAT WE DID NOT MAKE OURSELVES— THAT THE LINE OF CREATION STRETCHES ALL THE WAY BACK, PERHAPS TO INFINITY.

THE GRACE WITH WHICH WE EMBRACE LIFE IS ALWAYS A MEASURE OF WHAT HAS GONE ON BEFORE. IN THIS VEIN, WE WANT TO HONOR AND REMEMBER _____ .

(I NAME THE NAMES AND OFTEN SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT THEM, CAPTURING WHO THEY WERE, AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO THE BRIDE/GROOM).

WHO ARE NOT PRESENT PHYSICALLY, BUT WHO ARE IN ----- and ----- 'S HEARTS. WE CAN FEEL ALL THEIR PRESENCES HERE TODAY, BLESSING THIS MARRIAGE EVERYONE WHO HAS GONE BEFORE US IS PART OF THE FABRIC OF WHO WE ARE—AND WHAT WE MAY BECOME.

I also add a wonderful (short, to-the-point, and universally meaningful) Native American quote: Which I love ~~~~ and then end by saying

-----and -----, ALWAYS REMEMBER----- YOU ARE THE RESULT OF THE LOVE OF THOUSANDS

(This bounces off of the Native American quote I use)

=====

We give thanks now for all the relationships which support and sustain yours. Like tributaries merging into a river, streams winding their way down a mountain, and underground springs which though unseen cleanse and renew the waters, so it is with the loving relationships you have each known. Their gifts to you have become part of who you are, as they've joined your lives, blended imperceptibly through ripples and rapids.

We remember especially _____, whose physical presence is deeply missed, but whose ripples still stir the waters. _____ is with you in Spirit, because you make him/her/them present again, every time you love another well, fulfilling his/her/their hopes and legacy for your lives. There is but one Source of life and we are all carriers of its flow. Thanks be to God, for the life and love which flowed to you from _____. Amen

=====

Remembrance Author Linda Hogan writes, "Walking, I am listening in a deeper way. Suddenly, all my ancestors are behind me. Be still, they say: Watch and listen. You are the result of the love of thousands."

We include in our thoughts this afternoon those who could not be here with us. We know that so many loved ones are here with us in spirit especially _____ and _____ two individuals that were so much a part of the couples' heritage. We feel their presence and hear their voices in the wind. Let us take a moment of silent meditation to remember them with fondness. We know they all rejoice with us.

=====

"An African proverb tells us that people who lack the knowledge of their past are like a tree without roots. So, in the spirit of remembrance, we pour this libation. We pour to honor the past, so that we may learn from it. We pour to honor the importance of family. We raise our cup to God to show our reverence for the original source of our lives. We use cool water to freshen the road our ancestors travel to be here with us today.

We use cool water as a symbol of the continuity of life, to purify and to nourish our souls. We pour to celebrate the coming together of the families of these two people. It is said that through others, we are somebody. Through this marriage, we broaden our family circle, remember our heritage, and recall those who gave us life. We call upon our ancestors - {at this point the bride and groom and family members, if desired, can name those they wish to remember} - the foundations of our families, immortalized in our thoughts.

We call upon our elders, whose wisdom we seek in all endeavors. Our friends whom we are blessed to have in our lives, our parents who guided us along the road to adulthood.

We call upon family who have passed over and could not be here today. We ask that they be with us in our thoughts.

We call upon the bride and groom, that they may always find prosperity in love and devotion.

Therefore we offer these libations to honor our ancestors and to celebrate this marriage.

We wish everyone to leave more blessed than when they came."



In Memory Of, Without Using Any Names

At this time, [Ryan and Michelle](#) wish to pause to reflect upon others who have shaped their lives but are unable to be with us.

Let us take 30 seconds of silence to remember those who cannot be with us on this joyous day, though we know they are here in spirit.

We remember them with fondness, and take their memories forward as we witness the creation of a new family.

Although death has separated us physically, faith and love have bound us eternally.

Though we cannot see you, we know you are here spiritually.

Though we cannot touch you, we feel the warmth of your smile, as we begin a new chapter in our lives.

You have molded our spirits and touched our hearts. For this we thank you."



Briefly; the couple would like to take a moment to recognize any and all family members that are no longer with us and could not join us here today.

Although death has separated us physically; faith and love have bound us eternally.

Though we cannot see you, we know you are here spiritually.

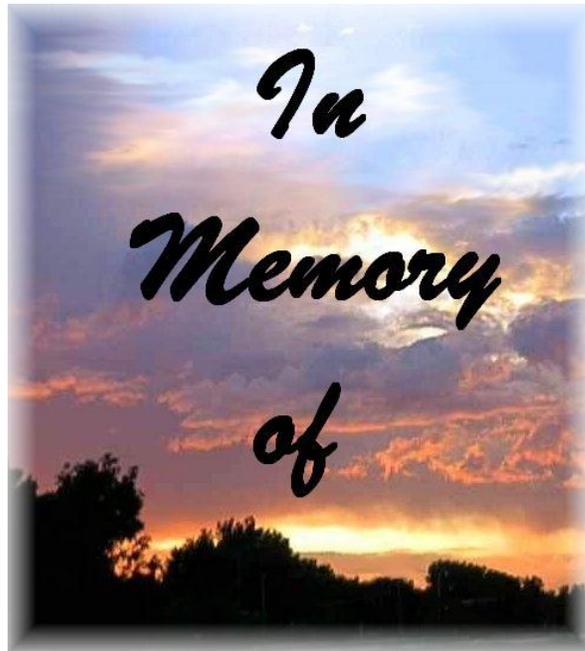
Though we cannot touch you, we feel the warmth of your smile, as we begin a new chapter in our lives.

You have molded our spirits and touched our hearts. For this we thank you.



Please join with me now as we bow our heads and close our eyes and bring to mind any loved ones who could not be here today. Though they are absent physically, we invoke, through our thought and prayers, their loving presence. We pray that God might multiply beyond measure the blessings from these loved ones to this loving couple. Now, from our hearts, we ourselves visualize and sanctify all the blessings we would bestow on groom and bride in their lives as a couple and a family. And in our sincere desire to bless, we in turn, are blessed also.

In Memoriam



An Honoring In The Stillness

Margaret met Agnes during her freshman year in high school and they quickly became the best of friends. Margaret said they saw each other through everything- good and bad. Their closest of friendships, an 18-year friendship, was ended by a boating accident that took Agnes from her.

Margaret knew that Agnes's favorite flower was the Stargazer Lily. She honored her in the following way:

In mid-ceremony after the exchanges of vows and rings and the presentation of roses to family members, Margaret and her groom Steve returned to center position. I explained to her guests the passing of her best friend Agnes, and how Margaret wanted to honor her. I gave Margaret a Stargazer Lily and asked the first and second brides maids to part, leaving a person's width between them.

In the silence Margaret stepped over to this spot, came down to floor level, and reflecting on her best friend, placed the lily where Agnes, as a bridesmaid, would have stood. The guests, and especially the flower girl and ring bearer (Agnes's surviving children) understood more fully what Agnes's friendship meant to Margaret.

What I like best is where the bride and groom would place a long stem rose on a vacant seats of the departed. Other couples simply ask me to pause the ceremony, as the names

of their loved ones are read to their guests. I then thank the guests and the ceremony resumes.

These are but some of the many, moving and visually poetic ways, of honoring loved ones in Memoriam.



STARGAZER LILY

Marriage Greeting

Greeting #1

"Junella and Jay would like to thank you all for being here with them today, and for supporting them through everything that it has taken to make this day a reality. They know that you're taking the time, and making the journey, took considerable effort for a good many of you and they wanted you all to know the deep appreciation and gratitude that they feel in their hearts for this. All of you are the most important, and have been the most influential people in their lives. All of the time, and conversations, that you have had with Junella and Jay even before they met have helped to make them who they needed to be to first find themselves and then each other. You have shared in their best and their worst days, and you are an irreplaceable part of their yesterdays, their today and all of their tomorrows. For all of you are among the greatest gifts that life has given them. All of you are those they can call Family and Friend."

Greeting #2

Amid the hectic pace of today's world it is easy lose site of the important things in life. This is not so for Mike and Ruth, family and family life are very important to them.

Although I'm sure that you are all very happy to be here with them, they wanted very much to express how deeply grateful they are to have you all here today and in their lives. All of you are those nearest and dearest to them. You all supply them with different aspects of that which they will need to accomplish their goal of living a long and happy life together. Those of you who have the wisdom of age, it is from you whom they can seek council in times of difficulty.

In the children here, they see the embodiment of their hopes and dreams for the future. And the rest of you... you are like the personal record keepers of times and places and events in their lives. Without all of you and the sharing of these events our memories would lose the scents and colors and the flavor and emotion that keep them vibrant and alive. Without all of you, the past would fade to black and white over time, so please remember that your presence here is a vital part in this celebration.

Greeting #3

Anna and Richard would like to thank you all for being here with them today, and for supporting them through everything that it has taken to make this day a reality. They know that you're taking the time, and making the journey, took considerable effort for a good many of you and they wanted you all to know the deep appreciation and gratitude that they feel in their hearts for this. Without all of you and the sharing of these events our

memories would lose the scents and colors and the flavor and emotion that keep them vibrant and alive. Without all of you the past would fade to black and white over time, so please remember that your presence here is a vital part in this celebration. All of you are the most important, and have been the most influential people in their lives. All of the time, and conversations, that you have had with Anna and Richard even before they met have helped to make them who they needed to be to first find themselves and then each other. You have shared in their best and their worst days, and you are an irreplaceable part of their yesterdays, their today and all of their tomorrows. For all of you are among the greatest gifts that life has given them. All of you are those they can call Family and Friend.

Greeting #4

Joe and Sheree would like to take a moment to thank you all for being here with them today, and for waiting patiently for it to come. Families are those who are nearest and dearest to us. Families are the people with whom we share our deepest secrets, and from whom we have no secrets. Some family we are born into and others earn the title through their actions. You have all been there for them from the beginning, sharing your love and support, your laughter and tears and they are deeply grateful for each and every one of you here today.

Greeting #5

Although this is their day, it is also a tribute to all of you. For knowing you, and interacting with you, has helped to make Tom and Joni who they needed to be, to find each other.

They would like to thank you for that.

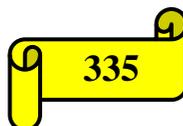
All of you are the threads of which are woven the tapestry of their lives. Each one of you is an important piece in the story it tells.

It is the fabric they wrap around themselves, and take comfort in, when the world seems cold.

And on days like today, when all is right with the world, that tapestry is proudly spread out and displayed for everyone to see, with all the glorious colors and textures your diversity adds.

You all hold a place in their hearts reserved for those they have chosen to call “Family” and they are grateful for all of you.

Greeting #6



Sam and Mary would like to thank you all for taking the time and making the journey, and for all of the efforts that were made on their behalf by each of you, to ensure that they were surrounded by the love of family and friends as they made their marriage vows. Sam and Mary consider themselves to be truly blessed to have such a rich and diversely blended group of family and friends to share their lives with. There have been no limits to the love, comfort and support that you have offered them on their best and their worst days. Your love has sustained them, and inspired them to believe that there is indeed still goodness in the future ahead. They thank you for your presence here today and for all the days that it took to make this one a reality, as they look forward to all the tomorrows they will share with you.

Greeting #7

Pastor Christine: Kevin and Chrystal would like to thank you all for being here with them today, and for supporting them through the 3 years that it has taken to make this day a reality. They know that you're taking the time, and making the journey, took considerable effort for a good many of you and they want you all to know the deep appreciation and gratitude that they feel in their hearts for this. All of you here are the most important people in their lives. You have shared their best and worst days and you are an irreplaceable part of their yesterdays, their today, and all of their tomorrows. Of course they know that you know this, but much in the same way that some things are better left unsaid, other things really do need to be spoken of.

Today Kevin and Chrystal give and receive a precious gift from one another. It is the promise that they shall each continue to be deserving of the faith and trust that they place in one another as husband and wife. This responsibility is not taken lightly. You have all set a good example and high standards for them. The lessons you have taught are things like, tradition and family history is important, that loving and caring always comes first, that family stays family, even if the nature of the relationship changes over time, and that joy is a vital part of living. Kevin and Chrystal firmly believe that through their relationship with all of you, they have become better people than they ever could have become under different circumstances. They want you to know that they shall do everything in their power to live up to all that you have taught them.

Rabbi Steve: Marriage is an opportunity for happiness. It is also risky business. Two people who choose the partnership of love and loyalty need many skills to make it work. They need patience, kindness, generosity, good humor, and the ability to compromise. They need persistence, nurturing, trust, discretion, and the willingness to be vulnerable.

But almost nothing offers a greater possibility for living life well. When marriage works it justifies all the effort. Life is richer when experience is shared. We are more ourselves when we are responding to the stimulus of others, especially when we are responding to

the gift of love. A truly loving relationship brings out the best in each other.

If romance leads to friendship, if coming together makes room for individual space, if dreams turn into realistic expectations, if the dazzle of beginnings yields to long-run commitment, if one is always willing to demand of oneself what one demands of others, then love becomes more profound, and the bond of marriage is strengthened.

To choose marriage is to accept a challenge, the challenge that love provides when it wants to grow.

Greeting #8

Charles and Rita would like to take a moment to thank you all for being here with them today. They know that you're taking the time, and making the journey, took considerable effort for a good many of you and they wanted you all to know the deep appreciation and gratitude that they feel in their hearts for this. All of you here are the most important people in their lives. You have shared their best and worst days and you are an irreplaceable part of their yesterdays, their today, and all of their tomorrows. Of course they know that you know this, but much in the same way that some things are better left unsaid, other things really do need to be spoken of. This holds particularly true on occasions such as this.

Greeting #9

Marriage is perhaps the greatest and most challenging adventure of human relationships, but it is one of the most rewarding.

Together you can accomplish anything through love and patience; through dedication and perseverance; through talking and listening, through encouragement and support; through tenderness and laughter; and through forgiveness and appreciation.

What this ceremony will do is to witness and affirm the choice you make to stand together as one throughout your lives.



Five Ways to Make Your Guests A Meaningful Part Of Your Wedding

1. **Making a Vow.** In the Episcopal Church, this is called the Community's Declaration of Consent. But people of many faiths have used this tradition. The minister or officiate asks the assembled guests, "Will all of you witnessing these vows do all in your power to support these two and their marriage?" The congregation or wedding guests then respond, "We will."

Alternatives: Will the congregation please rise. A marriage needs the support of a community. Will you, Jane and John's friends and family, promise to support them in their marriage, loving *them*, and *encouraging* their love for each other? (We promise).

2. **Blessing the Rings.** If you have a small wedding, you may ask your wedding guests to bless your wedding bands, or to imbue them with positive energy and love. Hand them to someone in the front row, and ask for them to be passed around until they come back to the front. It's best if this can happen during a musical interlude. Having more than 50 guests? You may just want to just ask a few select people to hold the rings and bless them, as passing them around the room will take too much time, and you'll run the risk of losing them.

3. **Candle Ceremony.** A candle ceremony is another nice way of harnessing the love of your family and friends. It's like a unity candle ceremony, but instead of just uniting the two families, it unites the whole room.

Each guest is given an unlit candle as they enter the ceremony. At the designated time, the officiate or the Bride and groom light the candle of someone in the front row. They, in turn, pass the flame to the person next to him or her, who in turn passes it to the next person. When everyone's candle has been lit, the last person passes the flame to the Bride and groom, who use it to light a central candle.

It's wonderful to do this right before the procession, so that your guests don't have to worry about fire danger and dripping candle wax for too long. As they exit into the night, the sight of all those candles will be breathtaking.

4. **Standing and Giving a Wish.** The officiate should inform the crowd that there will be 10 minutes of reflection and relative silence, when anyone who is so moved can get up and give a wish for the couple's marriage, or simply an observation. This custom was originally based on a Quaker wedding ceremony, but has since become something unto itself. You can shorten the amount of time given to this activity, particularly if your guests seem particularly shy. I recommend that you tell guests in advance about this portion of their ceremony; doing so allows them to think about what they want to say, and to work up the courage.

5. **Exchanging the Peace**. One of the simplest ways of involving your guests is also one of the nicest. Towards the end of the ceremony, each guest will turn to their neighbors, say hello and shake hands. They might say "Peace be with you," or "Peace and love." Though exchanging the peace is not directly asking for their support, it is helping to form community and human interaction. And ultimately, that community is what will support you, for many years to come.

Opening And Closing Quotes For Marriage Scripts

By: Reverend Steve Whitters

Created On: 7 July 2012

While you are preparing for marriage, during the wedding, and even after the wedding, these quotes will make your life together intangible.



"Marriage: Love is the reason. Lifelong friendship is the gift. Kindness is the cause. Til' death do us part is the length." -Fawn Weaver

"A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person." -Mignon McLaughlin

"No one can go back and change how it started but a new future for any marriage can begin the moment one person begins to invest in it." -Fawn Weaver

"Being in a long marriage is a little bit like that nice cup of coffee every morning - I might have it every day, but I still enjoy it." -Stephen Gaines

"A happy marriage is the union of two good forgivers." -Ruth Bell Graham

"To find someone who will love you for no reason, and to shower that person with reasons, that is the ultimate happiness." -Robert Brault

"Once we figured out that we could not change each other, we became free to celebrate ourselves as we are." -H. Dean Rutherford (in a letter to his wife on their 59th wedding anniversary)

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." -Henry Ford

"A great marriage is not when the 'perfect couple' comes together. It is when an imperfect couple learns to enjoy their differences." -Dave Meurer

"Keep the fire lit in your marriage and your life will be filled with warmth." -Fawn Weaver

"You don't marry one person; you marry three: the person you think they are, the person they are, and the person they are going to become as a result of being married to you." -Richard Needham

"When you compromise your beliefs for the sake of gain, that is a lack of integrity. When you compromise your beliefs for the sake of greater understanding with your spouse, that's called wisdom." **-Fawn Weaver**

"One day, in your search for happiness, you discover a partner by your side, and you realize that your happiness has come to help you search." **-Robert Brault**

"To keep your marriage brimming, with love in the wedding cup, whenever you're wrong, admit it; whenever you're right, shut up." **-Ogden Nash**

"They say it takes a village to raise a child. That may be the case, but the truth is that it takes a lot of solid, stable marriages to create a village." **-Diane Sollee**

"A happy marriage doesn't mean you have a perfect spouse or a perfect marriage. It simply means you've chosen to look beyond the imperfections in both." **-Fawn Weaver**

"There are a hundred paths through the world that are easier than loving. But who wants easier?" **-Mary Oliver**

"A good marriage is each for the other and two against the world." **-Robert Brault**

"To keep the fire burning brightly there's one easy rule: Keep the two logs together, near enough to keep each other warm and far enough apart - about a finger's breadth - for breathing room. Good fire, good marriage, same rule." **-Marnie Reed Crowell**

"Marriage is the virtuous exploration of love in its purest form and pleasure in its highest state." **-Fawn Weaver**

"In the opinion of the world, marriage ends all, as it does in a comedy. The truth is precisely the opposite: it begins all." **-Anne S Swetchine**

"Success in marriage does not come merely through finding the right mate, but through being the right mate." **-Barnett R. Brickner**

"The bonds of matrimony are like any other bonds - they mature slowly." **-Peter De Vries**

"Chains do not hold a marriage together. It is threads, hundreds of tiny threads which sew people together through the years." **-Simone Signoret**

"A marriage is not a noun; it's a verb. It isn't something you get. It's the way you love your partner every day." **-Barbara De Angelis**

"There is no greater happiness for a man than approaching a door at the end of a day knowing someone on the other side of that door is waiting for the sound of his footsteps." -
Ronald Reagan

*"Sometimes two people stay together for the sake of the kids -- two kids who sat under a full moon and pledged to be forever true." -***Robert Brault**

*"When people tell me they've learned from experience, I tell them the trick is to learn from other people's experience." -***Warren Buffett**

*"Love doesn't sit there like a stone, it has to be made, like bread; re-made everyday, made new." -***Unknown**

*"Marriage is our society's most pro-child institution. If you want kids to do well, then you want marriage to do well." -***David Blankenhorn**

*"The greatest weakness of most humans is their hesitancy to tell others how much they love them while they're still alive." -***Olando Battista**

*"The more things we can laugh about, the more alive we become: The more things we can laugh about together, the more connected we become." -***Frank Pittman**

*"Marriage provides the solace of worked-on friendship and the joy of being known profoundly." -***Imogene Stubbs**

*"Was it love at first sight? It wasn't then - but it sure is now." -***Ann Meara** (comedian Ben Stiller's mom), married 58 years

*"There comes a time when a man and woman realize that their separate schemes can be better achieved as a conspiracy." -***Robert Brault**

*"The happy State of Matrimony is, undoubtedly, the surest and most lasting Foundation of Comfort and Love . . . the Cause of all good Order in the World, and what alone preserves it from the utmost Confusion." -***Benjamin Franklin**

*"A good marriage at age 50 predicted positive aging at 80. But, surprisingly, low cholesterol levels did not." -***George Valliant, MD**, Harvard Medical School

*"No one has ever measured (not even poets) how much love the heart can hold." -***Zelda Fitzgerald**

*"Marriage is like a fine wine, if tended properly, it just gets better with age." -***Unknown**

"Don't marry the person you think you can live with; marry only the individual you think you can't live without." **-James C. Dobson**

"Being married is the nicest thing to be." -Germaine from the movie, "If A Man Answers"

"Follow your heart wherever it may take you and my heart is with You, YOU are my heart"
-Belinda Descombes, HWC member

"One advantage of marriage is that, when you fall out of love with him or he falls out of love with you, it keeps you together until you fall in again." **-Judith Viorst**

"One of the greatest gifts you can give your husband is your own wholeness." **-Stormie Omartian**

"I love being married. It's so great to find that one special person you want to annoy for the rest of your life." **-Rita Rudner**

"When there is love in a marriage, there is harmony in the home; when there is harmony in the home, there is contentment in the community; when there is contentment in the community, there is prosperity in the nation; when there is prosperity in the nation, there is peace in the world." **-Chinese Proverb**

"No one has ever measured (not even poets) how much love the heart can hold." **-Zelda Fitzgerald**

"If it's important to her, then it's important to me." **-Greg Provance**

"The couple who prays together - stays together." **-Unknown**

"There is no greater risk than matrimony. But there is nothing happier than a happy marriage." **-Former British Prime Minister, Benjamin Disraeli**

"I used to believe that marriage would diminish me, reduce my options. That you had to be someone less to live with someone else when, of course, you have to be someone more." -
Candice Bergen

"Marriage. It's like a cultural hand-rail. It links folks to the past and guides them to the future." **-Diane Frolov**

"A good marriage is one which allows for change and growth in the individuals and in the way they express their love." - **Pearl Buck**

"...Your gift to me is uninsurable. No appraiser can put a value on it... It's like fruit of the month or a lifetime subscription – a perpetual motion happiness machine. It starts off

fresh and brand new every day, shining up my whole world..." -Ronald Reagan - in a letter to his wife Nancy

"Marriage: If you want something to last forever, you treat it differently. You shield it and protect it. You never abuse it. You don't expose it to the elements. You don't make it common or ordinary. If it ever becomes tarnished, you lovingly polish it until it gleams like new. It becomes special because you have made it so, and it grows more beautiful and precious as time goes by." - F. Burton Howard

"Excitement and fire are not qualities inherent to relationships they are what happen when two people make marriage the number one priority." -Michele Weiner-Davis

"Your priorities aren't what you SAY they are. They are revealed by how you live. What does your life say about the value of your family and marriage?" -Marriage Today

"Happiness: "You Bring Your Own Weather To The Picnic." - Gretchen Rubin

"A happy marriage has in it all the pleasures of friendship, all the enjoyment of sense and reason - and indeed all the sweets of life." -Joseph Addison

"The greatest favor we can do our children is to give visible example of love and esteem to our spouse. As they grow up, they may then look forward to maturity so they too can find such love." -Eucharista Ward

"Love like there's no tomorrow, and if tomorrow comes, love again." -Max Lucado

"Love is the condition in which the happiness of another person is essential to your own." - Robert Heinlein

"Love at first sight is easy to understand; it's when two people have been looking at each other for a lifetime that it becomes a miracle." -Sam Levenson

"Love one another and you will be happy. It's as simple and as difficult as that." -Michael Leunig

"I got gaps; you got gaps; we fill each other's gaps." -Rocky Balboa (Rocky, the movie)

"Marriages, like a garden, take time to grow. But the harvest is rich unto those who patiently and tenderly care for the ground." -Darlene Schacht

"Love is like a friendship caught on fire. In the beginning a flame, very pretty, often hot and fierce, but still only light and flickering. As love grows older, our hearts mature and our love becomes as coals, deep-burning and unquenchable." -Joseph Addison

"The highest happiness on earth is the happiness of marriage." -**William Lyon Phelps**

"Many marriages would be better if the husband and wife clearly understood that they are on the same side." -**Zig Ziglar**

"The real act of marriage takes place in the heart, not in the ballroom or church or synagogue. It's a choice you make on your wedding day, and over and over again and that choice is reflected in the way you treat your husband..." -**Barbara De Angelis**

"Motto for the bride and groom: We are a work in progress with a lifetime contract." -**Phyllis Koss**

"What greater thing is there for two human souls than to feel that they are joined for life to strengthen each other in all labor, to rest on each other in all sorrow, to minister to each other in all pain, to be one with each other in silent, unspeakable memories at the moment of the last parting." -**George Eliot**

"A good marriage is one in which allows for change and growth in the individuals and in the way they express their love." -**Pearl S. Buck**

"A happy marriage is a selfless journey in which the happiness of another person is essential to your own." -**George & Yvonne Levy**

"Happy marriages begin when we marry the ones we love, and they blossom when we love the ones we marry." -**Tom Mullen**

"A good marriage is a contest of generosity." -**Diane Sawyer**

"The goal in marriage is not to think alike, but to think together." -**Robert C. Dodds**

"Married couples who love each other tell each other a thousand things without talking." -**Chinese Proverb**

"The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother." -**Theodore Hesburgh**

"What a happy and holy fashion it is that those who love one another should rest on the same pillow." -**Nathaniel Hawthorne**

"A happy marriage is a long conversation which always seems too short." -**Andre Maurois**

"A long marriage is two people trying to dance a duet and two solos at the same time." -**Anne Taylor Flemming**

"The more you invest in a marriage, the more valuable it becomes." - Amy Grant

"In marriage, each partner is to be an encourager rather than a critic, a forgiver rather than a collector of hurts, an enabler rather than a reformer." -H. Norman Wright and Gary Oliver

"For you see, each day I love you more. Today more than yesterday and less than tomorrow." -Rosemond Gerard

"We waste time looking for the perfect lover, instead of creating the perfect love." -Tom Robbins

"New love is the brightest and long love is the greatest. But revived love is the most tender thing known on earth." -Thomas Hardy

"Make a list of ten of your spouse's faults, which, for the sake of your marriage, you will always overlook. You can live with those ten." -J & G Murphy

"You didn't learn how to play an instrument well in one night. It will take time to learn how to "make music" with your spouse too." -J & G Murphy

"Love is not something you look for... love is something you become." -Alina Villasante

"It's the little things that keep us together. Those little things will make me love you forever." -Sonia Schaad

*Once in a while, right in the middle of an ordinary life, love gives us a fairy tale.
Unknown*

Keep the fire lit in your marriage and your life will be filled with warmth. Unknown

Opening And Closing Prayers

1. This is a brief prayer, thanking God for the occasion and invoking his blessing on the ceremony and the ensuring marriage.
2. The officiate will provide you with a list of recommended readings. Choose the ones that you feel most comfortable with. If you have a favorite passage, bring a copy with you and, ask the officiate if it can be used in the wedding ceremony. You should ask close family members or friends to read the passages for the wedding ceremony.

Prayers for Weddings

Opening Prayer

This marriage is a serious covenant made before God and before all of us as witnesses. In acknowledgment of its Holy Purpose and the power of the occasion, let us pray.

God of Love, who gives us the longing for, and capability of loving, we give you thanks for _____ and _____, for their open hearts and willing spirits, and for the example of love that they embody here in our presence. Be with them on this joyous occasion of showing their love and making their vows; and be with us, their witnesses, that we may all be changed by what is said and witnessed here.

Genesis 1:28

Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

a. "It was God who established marriage, that man and woman might have lifelong companionship, that natural instincts and affections might be fulfilled in mutual love, that children might have the benefit of family life, and that society might rest on a firm foundation.

_____ and _____, the moment you have been planning for and looking forward to, has finally arrived. As your family and friends, we have assembled in this place [of worship], at your invitation, to witness the public exchange of your vows of a life-long commitment to each other.

Today is not the destination, however, but rather the beginning of a life long journey of learning to love one another. It is before both of the people gathered here and before God, that you commit yourselves to begin this journey today.

As you travel on this journey, you will need God’s supporting strength to bring you through. It is appropriate, therefore, that we pause right now and invite God’s involvement in your lives, to help you carry out the commitments you are about to make.”

b. Thanksgiving for Love.

“Thank you, God, for the gift of life, for family and friends, and for the strong bond of love that exists between _____ and _____.

Thank you, Almighty God that you are right here among us now, hearing each word of commitment, reading each thought and intention. Thank you that we can turn to you in faith and ask that you not only witness this ceremony, but that you also be involved, in an integral way, with the carrying out of these vows made here today.

Thank you God, that we can commit to you the very sacred moments that are to follow, and we pray with thanksgiving that your blessing and love will be an integral part of the lives of _____ and _____ in the years to come as they call upon you. With heartfelt gratefulness, we pray in the name of Jesus the Christ our Lord. Amen.”

c. Enduring Love.

“Lord we bow in your holy presence, with hearts full of worship and praise. You are a God of enduring love who shares that perfect love with us that we might love one another.

_____ and _____. Thank you that this same love that has drawn them to you and to each other will sustain them in their married life as they tackle all of the challenges that will come their way. Your gift of love is a love that lasts, Father, and for this we praise you.

_____ and _____ this power, enduring love that it might equip them to fulfill the vows they make this day. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

d. Channels of Love.

“We stand in your presence, Heavenly Father, and thank you that it is because of your great love for us that your love shines through both _____ and _____.

Thank you that you will continue the work you have already begun in their lives. Truly make them channels of your love, both to others and especially to each other, throughout their new life together. We pray in the strong name of Jesus our Lord, Amen.”

e. Committed Love.

Thank you, dear God, for your commitment of love to each and every one of us. Thank you for creating us with the ability to receive and give love – love that is self-sacrificing, love that makes commitment between us as imperfect human beings possible. Thank you for the evidence of this love that we see in the lives of _____ and _____. Thank you for these sacred moments as they publicly declare this love and pledge their commitment one to the other.

Thank you, too, Lord, for the committed love of family and friends. Thank you for those gathered here and for their willingness to come alongside _____ and _____ in this commitment called marriage. May we be faithful and supportive of them, as they build their marriage and live out the commitments made this day.

And thank you, loving God, for your precious presence here. Listen to the words spoken. Look to the intent of our hearts. Grant strength and wisdom to carry out the commitments made as often as _____ and _____ seek your face. We commit these sacred moments to you now, O Lord. In the strong name of Jesus we pray. Amen.”

f. Supportive Love.

“Thank you, Almighty God, that you are present here among us right now. Hear these vows of commitment, we pray, and grant to _____ and _____ the strength to fulfill them throughout their lifetime together. Amen.”

g. “Our Father, we come before you on this holy occasion with our hearts filled with the spirit of love and thanksgiving. We praise and worship you as the giver of life and creator of all good things. As we enter into this service, we most particularly give you thanks for the holy union of marriage, the most sacred of all human relationships. We pray for your presence here today and your blessing upon _____ and _____ as they enter their new life together. Above all else, we thank you Jesus, who gives meaning, direction, and hope to all human relationships. We pray in his name, Amen.”

Statement Of Purpose

1. Remind people that marriage is an ordainment of God and is a holy union, not to be entered into lightly.

God is the author of love. The Bible teaches that God is love, and that love comes from God. From beginning to end, the Bible is a love story. There we read of God's love for his people, of the love that sent Christ to the cross, of redeeming love of the sinner, of abiding love for the redeemed.

We read also of the love of man and woman: of Jacob's love for Rachel, of Mary pledged to Joseph, of the Shulammitte and her beloved.

In the beginning, when the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and placed him in the Garden of Eden, Adam was lonely. So the Lord God made a companion and helper for him. When Adam saw Eve, he was no longer lonely.

[Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Genesis 2:8 And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

Genesis 2:9 And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 2:10 And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads.

Genesis 2:12 And the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone.

Genesis 2:13 And the name of the second river is Gihon: the same is it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia.

Genesis 2:14 And the name of the third river is Hiddekel: that is it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river is Euphrates.

Genesis 2:15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

Genesis 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

Genesis 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Genesis 2:18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him.

Genesis 2:19 And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.

Genesis 2:20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

Genesis 2:21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

Genesis 2:22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

Genesis 2:23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

Genesis 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Genesis 2:25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

God can lead us to our life's companion. Abraham prayed that God would find a wife for his son, Isaac, and God answered that prayer. When Abraham's servant found Rebekah, the servant bowed and worshiped, praising God.

Then he brought her to his master's son. The Scriptures says Isaac loved her and was comforted.

God has guided _____ and _____ to this moment, has blessed their love and brought them together to enter into the holy union of marriage.”

Genesis 24:4 But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac.

Genesis 24:14 And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: let the same be she that thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master.

Genesis 24:62 And Isaac came from the way of the well Lahairoi; for He dwelt in the south country.

Genesis 24:63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels were coming.

Genesis 24:64 And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel.

Genesis 24:66 And the servant told Isaac all things that he had done.

Genesis 24:67 And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her: and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Genesis 25:5 And Abraham gave all that he had unto Isaac.

A Reading From Ruth

Please note that “Ruth” is only 1 of 2 books in the Bible that are written by women. The other book is called “Ester”.

Ruth 1:16-17. “Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Thus, may the Lord do to me, and worse, if anything but death parts you me.”

First Scripture Reading

The sample ceremonies below will provide suggestion for appropriate Scriptures here.

“The word of God tells us what love is like and what love does: If I speak in tongues of man and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.”

“Love is patient, Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always preserves.”

And now these three remain: Faith, Hope and Love. But the greatest of these is love.”
(1 Corinthians 13:1-7, 13).

Song of Solomon 2:10-13

My beloved responded and said to me, ' Arise, my darling, my beautiful one,
And come along.
'For behold, the winter is past,
The rain is over and gone.
'The flowers have already appeared in the land;
The time has arrived for pruning the vines,
And the voice of the turtledove has been heard in our land.
'The fig tree has ripened its figs,
And the vines in blossom have given forth their fragrance.
Arise, my darling, my beautiful one,
And come along!'

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor.
For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the
one who falls when there is not another to lift him up.

Furthermore, if two lie down together they keep warm, but how can one be warm alone?
And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is
not quickly torn apart.

Ruth 1:16-17

But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. "Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Thus may the LORD do to me, and worse, if anything but death parts you and me."

I Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

I John 4:7-19

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

We love, because He first loved us.

**For The Second, Third and Fourth Closing Scripture Readings, Please See Chapters
21 - 26 In The DVD**

Wedding Bible Verses

Are you looking for some Bible verses to use in your wedding ceremony? The list below provides several examples of verses in scripture that relate to marriage, love, and life. All verses are taken from the New International Version (NIV) text. Enjoy!

Marriage

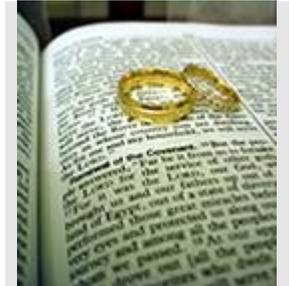
[Genesis 2:18-24](#)
[Deuteronomy 24:5](#)
[Matthew 19:4-6](#)
[1 Corinthians 7: 1-16](#)
[Ephesians 5:22-33](#)
[Colossians 3:18,19](#)
[Hebrews 13:4-7](#)
[Mark 10:6-9](#)

Love

[Romans 12: 9-21](#)
[1 Corinthians 13:1-13](#)
[Ephesians 5:1-2](#)
[1 Peter 4:8](#)
[1 John 4:9-12](#)

Life

[Joshua 24:15](#)
[Matthew 7:24-27](#)
[Ephesians 5:3-21](#)
[Colossians 2: 6-10](#)
[Colossians 3:12-17](#)



Grounded in God's Word

Marriage

Genesis 2:18-24

The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

Deuteronomy 24:5

If a man has recently married, he must not be sent to war or have any other duty laid on him. For one year he is to be free to stay at home and bring happiness to the wife he has married.

Matthew 19:4-6

Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

1 Corinthians 7: 1-16

Now for the Steveers you wrote about: It is good for a man not to marry. But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. I say this as a concession, not as a command. I wish that all men were as I am. But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.

Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I am. But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with

passion. To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife. To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.

But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace. How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

Ephesians 5:22-33

Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church- for we are members of his body. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery-but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Colossians 3:18,19

Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

Hebrews 13:4-7

Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

Mark 10:6-9

"But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.'" For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

Love

Romans 12: 9-21

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Ephesians 5:1-2

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

1 Peter 4:8

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

1 John 4:9-12

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Life

Joshua 24:15

But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Matthew 7:24-27

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

Ephesians 5:3-21

But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them. For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said:

"Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Colossians 2: 6-10

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.

Colossians 3:12-17

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Declaration Of Intent/Consent

The Bride and groom face each other, and each state their intention to live in the state of matrimony, faithfully to each other until death do you part.

Traditional Wedding Vows

Please remember that the appropriate answer to these articles are: “I Will”, “I Do” or “I shall”. Any other answer may be grounds for my immediate termination of the wedding.

The following is the standard Declaration of Intent unless I am notified accordingly.

Groom: I call upon all present to witness that I take you to be my lawfully wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, so long as we both shall live.

Bride: I call upon all present to witness that I take you to be my lawfully wedded husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, so long as we both shall live.

Officiant: (Groom) will you take (Bride) to be your lawful wife, will you love her, honor and keep her in sickness and in health and forsaking all others keep only unto her so long as you both shall live.

Groom: I will.

(or) I (Groom) take you, (Bride) to be my lawful wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health while we both shall live.

Officiant: (Bride) will you take (Groom) to be your lawful husband, will you love him, honor and keep him in sickness and in health and forsaking all others keep only unto him so long as you both shall live.

Bride: I will.

(or) I (Bride) take you, (Groom) to be my lawful husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health while we both shall live.

To Groom: _____, will you have this woman to be your wife, to live together in the holy covenant of Marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor her, and keep her in

sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, being faithful to her so long as you both shall live? If so, answer, "I do."

To Bride: _____, will you have this man to be your husband, to live together in the holy covenant of Marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor him, and keep him in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, being faithful to him so long as you both shall live? If so, answer, "I Will", or "I Do", or "I shall".

=====

To Groom: Do you Marty take Marylyn to be your lawfully wedded wife?

Rob, please repeat after me:

I Marty Martin, take you Susan Blecher, to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, now and forever. As God is my witness, I give you my promise.

Susan, please repeat after me:

I Susan Belecher, take you Marty Martin, to be my husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, now and forever. As God is my witness, I give you my promise.

=====

I loved this Declaration. ..the guests did too...

This is what their Declaration of intent was....

Whitney, do you choose to marry Aaron today, promising to love, honor, cook for, clean up after, surrender your share of the blanket to, live with the flatulence of, relinquish the remote to and deal with the toilet seat after until death do you part?

Whitney: I do.

Aaron, Do you choose to marry Whitney today, understanding that you have the right to remain silent, that anything you say may be held against you, and you have the right to have an attorney present?

Aaron: I do.

(The guests were particularly tickled by the "flatulence" reference, lol)

~ Declaration of Intent #2 ~

A wedding is more than a celebration of the Love which lives in our Bride and Groom's hearts today. It reaches into the future and proclaims their intentions for that which tomorrow shall hold. A couple who wed, are joined not only by the mutual affection and love they share, but also by their hopes, dreams and by their promises of what will be... The promises and vows they make this day shall guide them into their common future. I will ask you now if you are prepared to make these promises.

Ginger, Have you come here today of your own free will to take Tony to be your husband, that you may live together as equal partners sharing all that life has to offer?"

Ginger: "I have."

"Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him all the days of your life?"

Ginger: "I will."

"Tony, Have you come here today of your own free will to take Ginger to be your wife, hat you may live together as equal partners sharing all that life has to offer?"

Tony: "I have."

"Will you love her comfort her, honor and keep her all the days of your life?"

Tony: "I will."

Traditional Ways To Say “I do.”

Standard Traditional

[Groom’s name], do you take [Bride’s name] to be your wedded wife, to live together in marriage? Do you promise to love her, comfort her, honor and keep her for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and health, and forsaking all others, be faithful only to her, for as long as you both shall live?

{I do.}

[Bride’s name], do you take [Groom’s name] to be your wedded husband to live together in marriage? Do you promise to love him, comfort him, honor and keep him for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and health and forsaking all others, be faithful only to him so long as you both shall live?

{I do.}

Modified Traditional - Version 1

Do you, [Groom's Name], take [Bride's Name] to be your wife, to cherish in friendship and love today, tomorrow, and for as long as the two of you live, to trust and honor her, to love her faithfully, through the best and the worst, whatever may come, and if you should ever doubt, to remember your love for each other and the reason why you came together with her this day?

{I do.}

Do you, [Bride's Name], take [Groom's Name] to be your husband, to cherish in friendship and love today, tomorrow and for as long as the two of you live, to trust and honor him, to love him faithfully, through the best and the worst, whatever may come, and if you should ever doubt, to remember your love for each other and the reason why you came together with him this day?

{I do.}

Modified Traditional - Version 2

Do you, [Groom], take [Bride] to be your wedded wife, to cherish in love and in friendship, in strength and in weakness, in success and in disappointment, to love her faithfully, today, tomorrow, and for as long as the two of you shall live?

{I do.}

Do you, [Bride], take [Groom] to be your wedded husband, to cherish in love and in friendship, in strength and in weakness, in success and in disappointment, to love him faithfully, today, tomorrow, and for as long as the two of you shall live?

{I do.}

Modified Traditional - Version 3 (Slight variation between Bride's and groom's vows; may be done repeating style.)

Bride's Part:

I, [Bride's Name], take you, [Groom's Name], to be my husband, secure in the knowledge that you will be my constant friend, my faithful partner in life, and my one true love.

On this special day, I affirm to you in the presence of God and these witnesses my sacred promise to stay by your side as your faithful wife, in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, as well as through the good times and the bad.

I further promise to love you without reservation, comfort you in times of distress, encourage you to achieve your goals, laugh with you and cry with you, grow with you in mind and spirit, always be open and honest with you, and cherish you for as long as we both shall live.

Groom's Part:

I, [Groom's Name], take you, [Bride's Name], to be my wife, knowing in my heart that you will be my constant friend, my faithful partner in life, and my one true love.

On this special day, I affirm to you in the presence of God and these witnesses my sacred promise to stay by your side as your faithful husband, in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, as well as through the good times and the bad.

I further promise to love you without reservation, honor and respect you, provide for your needs as best I can, protect you from harm, comfort you in times of distress, grow with you in mind and spirit, always be open and honest with you, and cherish you for as long as we both shall live.

Sermon

Here is the opportunity for the minister to put his special “Stamp” on the ceremony. This is especially meaningful when the Bride and or the groom are well known to him. Be careful not to get too personal in your remarks.

a. “Marriage is one of the most important decisions a couple will make. Marriage is the clasping of hands, the blending of hearts, the union of two lives as one. Your marriage here today must stand, not by the authority of the State, nor by the seal on your wedding certificate, but by the strength of your love and by the power of your faith in each other and in God.

You can have this kind of home if you continue to recognize God as the source of romance and love and affection, for these are his gifts to you. Build your home on a spiritual foundation.

With God, you will have everything; without him, you will have nothing”.

b. How many Commandment are there? 12. The original 10, plus: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" (Matthew 22:36 NIV). Jesus replied, " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments" (Matthew 22:37-40 NIV).

c. How many laws are in the Bible? 613. Each found in the first 5 books of the Bible (or Torah).

d. Did Noah bring in animals 2 by 2? No, the full statement is that it was 2 by 2 of non-cleaned male and female beasts, and 2 x 7 of each male and female cleaned beasts to include fowls of the air.

***UNITY CEREMONY ANYONE?**



Unity Ceremonies

(Also See Manuals #42 - 45 On The DVD)

1. There are so many different cultural traditions and “Unity” ceremonies that can be added to a wedding ceremony these days. You can add or dismiss any or all of them in your wedding. You can also dream-up some of your own “Unity” ceremonies. There is no one better than the other, except for the one you choose. **However, I would suggest that you do choose at least one.** This will show the uniqueness of your wedding.
2. Although there are only two essential parts to a wedding ceremony;
 - the vows or promises you make to one another (the most personal part and the cornerstone of the ceremony) and
 - the pronouncement of marriage by the person officiating that you are now married.
3. Remember, this is *your* day and you get to choose how you want the wedding to progress. Each ceremony will be completely customized to fit your specific needs. You determine the level of formality.
4. You can write your own vows, delete whole sections of our popular "romantic" ceremony template (other than the two sections mentioned above), move certain parts around and decide to include music, readings (your favorite romantic song lyrics make a great reading) and whatever you feel is appropriate. There is absolutely no restrictions on what goes into your ceremony.
5. The words spoken will be what unite you and your intended. *This* wedding has never happened before. Choose your words wisely.
6. I can help you fine-tune the words that will mean the most to you and your guests.
7. Whatever the chosen structure of the ceremony, it is important that both the Bride and groom have some agreement and ownership of the words in the marriage rites. A wedding is a distinctly personal experience; a very personal occasion and should define the Bride and groom, and not the families expectations. Your Mom had her wedding, this one is for you!
8. Do not be afraid to "step outside the box" and be unique. Don't let anyone convince you that a boring, stuffy, stale wedding ceremony is for you. This is your wedding day! Do what you like and have a blast! Your guests will love attending a wedding that makes them wonder what will happen next. Relax protocol, have fun and don't be afraid to ask me or your wedding coordinators for additional advice or ideas.

9. Some of the most meaningful ceremonies are those with elements honoring cultural customs. I can include a glass-breaking segment for a couple who want to honor their Jewish roots; a Lasso rite involving the parents or grandparents, to pay homage to their Mexican-American heritage; Native American blessings and rituals; Celtic hand-fasting, the Serenity Prayer and more.

10. Have a surprise wedding! Invite guests to a luncheon or dinner, promise them a very special "surprise". When everyone arrives, announce that they've been gathered to witness your wedding vows! While unorthodox, it's very different and a whole lot of fun. It also takes the pre-wedding pressure off!

11. Don't expect a "perfect" ceremony. Children may cry; your Bridesmaid's hair may be dyed purple; your grandmother may flub the reading or the 3 year-old ring bearer may get cold feet and freeze. That's okay. Remember, the guests do not know what you are supposed to be doing so you can't get it wrong. If mistakes are made, it's important not to call attention to them.

12. Spoken promises of love will always be part of a good marriage, so finding the perfect wedding ceremony will reflect your love for one another.

13. The following ceremonies are meant to give you some ideas from which to work, etc., etc. Remember, ceremonies are a kind of poetry that you may adjust, add to, or modify as you wish. *Anything goes!*

14. I honor and respect all beliefs and traditions - religious, spiritual, non-religious, or secular.

15. It's "your" day. . . you get to choose. I will customize your ceremony to fit your needs. That's a promise I keep!

16. Note: There is only one thing that I will not say in a wedding ceremony: "You may now kiss YOUR Bride." The word "your" is possessive. The Bride does not belong to the Husband. They are equal partners. Instead I recommend, "You may now seal your promises with a kiss!" which is a lot more romantic.

• • •

17. [Wedding Ceremony](#) - This ceremony has a touch of traditional with a few modern twists, a slight Spiritual tint (or not!) and an emphasis on lots of love and romance! It is our most popular ceremony. *It is always customized to fit your specific needs. Anything goes!* It's "your" day and you get to say what is in your ceremony! The "romance" is in the details!

NOTE: Wedding With A Blessing "romantic" ceremonies has gained in popularity and gets rave reviews! Word gets around mighty fast when something is good. If you have the slightest interest in having Reverend Whitters perform your ceremony, you are encouraged to call to check my availability. I usually book up to 1 year in advance, with a few open

dates in between. Weekday weddings are generally easier to schedule on shorter notice.

UPDATED Unity Candle Ceremony - A symbolic ceremony that has the Bride and groom light a single candle representing their willingness to walk life's pathways together as one.

Blending of the Sands Ceremony - This ceremony can be a beautiful and meaningful alternative to the "Unity Candle" ceremony. The pouring of two different colored sands together is used to symbolize the joining of the Bride and groom or the "joining of their families."

Rose Ceremony - In this brief ceremony the Bride and groom present each other with their first gift as wife and husband; a red rose bud (a symbol of Love). There are two versions of the Rose Ceremony, one short and a longer one. The longer version only adds about 3 minutes to the ceremony.

Honor Your Mother - Here is an honorable tribute that will fill your mother and mother-in-laws' hearts with joy and pride. Plus a very subtle way to honor close family members who have passed on and the colors of roses and their special meanings.

Blended Family Ceremony - When the Bride and/or groom have children, it is appropriate for the children to be included into the wedding ceremony. Children will accept a parent's remarriage more readily when they feel included in the wedding ceremony. Pouring different colored sands together is another way to symbolize the joining of the Bride and groom and their family together. The children love this version. See the Blending of the Sands Ceremony.

The Loving Cup Ceremony - The purpose of the Loving Cup ceremony is for the Bride and groom to share their first drink together as wife and husband and to show the coming together of two families. Special words can be added to include the Bride and Groom's parents (and friends) as part of this ceremony.



[The Lasso Ceremony](#) - This tradition is usually associated with Hispanic and Filipino families. Lasso (sometimes called, "lazo") or rope is placed around the Bride and groom's shoulders after they have exchanged their vows to symbolize their everlasting union.

[The Handfasting Ceremony](#) - This Celtic tradition of Hand-fasting is an ancient commitment ceremony. It is the predecessor to the modern wedding ceremony.

[The Gold Coins Ceremony](#) - The custom of the giving of wedding coins originated in Spain. Thirteen gold coins (arras) are given to the Bride by the Bridegroom, signifying his willingness to support her.

[The Breaking of the Glass Ceremony](#) - The breaking of the glass serves as a separation between the awe of the ceremony and the reception celebration that will follow. Although this ceremony is traditionally of Jewish origin, many couples choose to incorporate it into traditional and non-traditional ceremonies.

NEW [The Circling Ceremony](#) - In the Jewish tradition, after the Bride and groom first enter the huppah (a canopy traditionally used in Jewish weddings), or the Bride walks to the alter escorted by her father, the Bride circles the groom three or seven times.

[The Butterfly Release Ceremony](#) - The butterfly symbolizes new beginnings and rebirths. What better way to celebrate the beginning of a new life together than with the releasing of butterflies at your wedding.

[White Doves Release Ceremony](#) - As a true symbol of Love, the White Dove chooses its mate for life, therefore they are a very fitting and final addition to any wedding. They create a magical atmosphere as they circle the skies before leaving on their new journey together.

[Jumping the Broom Ceremony](#) - The Jumping the Broom Ceremony is an African American tradition. It signifies their entrance into a new life and their creation of a new family by symbolically "sweeping away" their former single lives, former problems and concerns, and jumping over the broom to enter upon a new adventure as wife and husband.

[Wedding Blessing](#) - I am also available to offer a special "Wedding Blessing" at the rehearsal dinner or the reception as a part of my wedding services - at no additional fee.

[Renewal/Reaffirm Vows](#) - Time has gone by and you are now deciding to pause and reflect on your time together in the years that have passed since your wedding day. It is an opportunity to reaffirm the tremendous love that has deepened with the passing of years.

[Godparents Celebration Ceremony with Sand](#) - It is a great honor when friends ask you to be a Godparent (aka, mentor, supporting adult, guide parent or guardian) and is an

awesome responsibility and signals that they really trust you to look out for their child if something should happen to them.

[A Ceremony for Letting Go](#) - This ceremony is specifically for couples who have decided to move on with their separate lives with grace and style. It is appropriate for relationship break-ups and divorces. It focuses on moving apart with clarity, good will for the other, and more.

18. If you are considering writing your own wedding vows, you will find a list of vows throughout this manual which are excellent suggestions.

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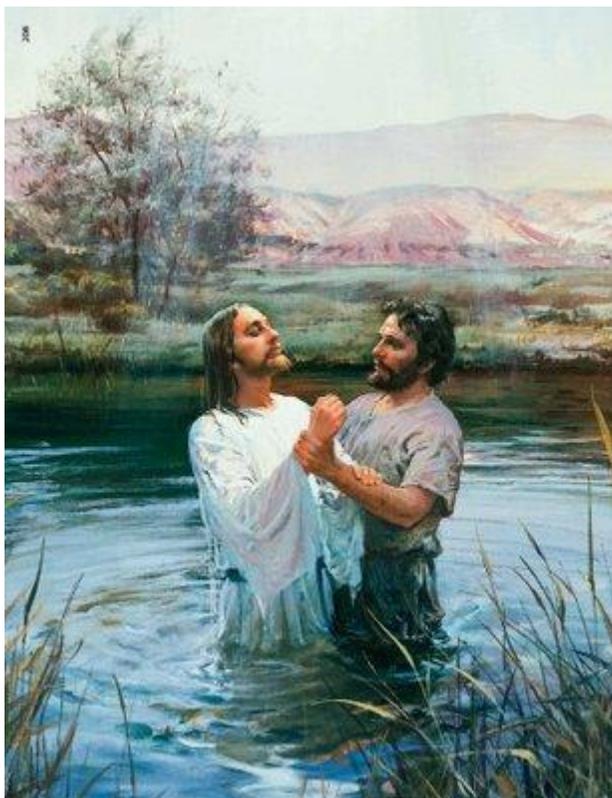
19. I am also available to offer a very special "[Wedding Blessing](#)" at the rehearsal dinner or the reception as a part of his wedding services - at no additional fee.

• • •

20. Please remember that the Unity Ceremonies presented here, are not all of them, since they are too numerous and voluminous to mention. There are several more mentioned in the third part of this manual. (But of course, if you're reading this manual, you're already reading Manual 3 of 4).

Blessing With Holy Water Or Oils

Holy water is introduced and is placed on the couple's forehead with a blessing for each. Holy Oils may also be used. I always carry holy water and Oils in my carrying case just in case it is needed at any time.



John The Baptist with Jesus in the Jordan River



Anointing Oil - Lily of the Valley
Anointing Oil - Latter Rain
Anointing Oil - Pomegranate
Anointing Oil - Rose of Sharon
Anointing Oil - Spikenard
Anointing Oil - Frankincense & Myrrh
Anointing Oil - Unscented

1/4 oz. Our anointing oil is blessed and bottled with love. It is then presented to the Wedding Couple.

The rite of blessing and sprinkling holy water or oils may be celebrated in all churches and chapels at all Sunday Masses celebrated on Sunday or on Saturday evening.

When this rite is celebrated it takes the place of the penitential rite at the beginning of Mass. The Kyrie is also omitted.

After greeting the people, the priest remains standing at his chair. A vessel containing the water to be blessed is placed before him. Facing the people, he invites them to pray, using these or similar words:

Dear friends, this water will be used to remind us of our baptism. Ask God to bless it, and to keep us faithful to the Spirit he has given us.

After a brief silence, he joins his hands and continues:

a. God our Father, your gift of water brings life and freshness to the earth; it washes away our sins and brings us eternal life.

We ask now to bless + this water, and to give us your protection on this day which you have made your own. Renew the living spring of your life within us and protect us in spirit and body, which we may be free from sin and come into your presence to receive your gift of salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Or:

b. Lord God almighty, creator of all life, of body and soul, we ask you to bless + this water: as we use it in faith forgive our sins and save us from all illness and the power of evil. Lord, in your mercy give us living water, always springing up as a fountain of salvation: free us, body and soul, from every danger, and admit us to your presence in purity of heart. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Or: *(during the Easter season):*

c. Lord God almighty, hear the prayers of your people: we celebrate our creation and redemption. Hear our prayers and bless + this water which gives fruitfulness to the fields, and refreshment and cleansing to man. You chose water to show your goodness when you led your people to freedom through the Red Sea and satisfied their thirst in the desert with water from the rock. Water was the symbol used by the prophets to foretell your new covenant with man. You made the water of baptism holy by Christ's baptism in the Jordan: by it you give us a new birth and renew us in holiness. May this water remind us of our baptism and let us share the joy of all who have been baptized at Easter. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Where it is customary, salt may be mixed with the holy water. The priest blesses the salt, saying:

Almighty God, we ask you to bless + this salt as once you blessed the salt scattered over the water by the prophet Elisha. Wherever this salt and water is sprinkled, drive away the power of evil, and protect us always by the presence of your Holy Spirit. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Then he pours the salt into the water in silence.

Taking the sprinkler, the priest sprinkles himself and his ministers, then the rest of the clergy and people. He may move through the church for the sprinkling of the people. Meanwhile, an antiphon or another appropriate song is sung.

Outside the Easter Season

Cleanse us, Lord, from all our sins; wash us, and we shall be whiter than snow. (*Ps 50:9*)

I will pour clean water over you and wash away all your defilement. A new heart will I give you, says the Lord. (*Ez 36:25-26*)

Praised be the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: a God so merciful and kind. He has given us a new birth, a living hope, by raising Jesus his Son from death. Salvation is our undying inheritance, preserved for us in heaven, salvation at the end of time. (*See 1 Pet 1:3-5*)

In the Easter Season

I saw water flowing from the right side of the temple, alleluia. It brought God's life and his salvation, and the people sang in joyful praise: alleluia, alleluia. (*See Ez 47:1-2, 9*)

You are a people God claims as his own to praise him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light, alleluia. (*See 1 Peter 2:9*)

Lord Jesus, from your wounded side flowed streams of cleansing water: the world was washed of all its sin, all life made new again, alleluia.

When he returns to his place and the song is finished, the priest faces the people and, with joined hands, says (unless the opening prayer of Mass follows immediately):

May almighty God cleanse us of our sin, and through the Eucharist we celebrate make us worthy to sit at his table in his heavenly kingdom.

When it is prescribed, the Gloria is then sung or said.

Bouquet Of Love And Support

1. Do you have a large family or many close friends that you would like to incorporate in your wedding? Here is a great way to include them in your ceremony. Friends and family of your choice are given a rose or other flower to bring up and set in a vase (on the altar or somewhere in the front).

I will explain that this bouquet represents all of the people that are present to love and support you in your marriage. These are the people to lean on when you run into bumpy spots in your marriage. They will encourage you and help you to stay committed to your spouse and to God.

2. Another option would be to have each individual sitting closest to the aisle hold a rose or other flower. As the Bride enters, she takes the flower to create her bridal bouquet. The groom may hold a ribbon at the altar so that upon the Bride's arrival, he would tie the ribbon around the bouquet to hold all flowers in place - their first task completed together as husband & wife!

3. As a third option, you may have a person (or a couple) stand in front with the bouquet of flowers, and I shall explain what their purpose is, as described below.



One Dozen Roses Guide

*Primary Significance: Thinking of you
12 months a year*

4. The number twelve is often used to represent a complete cycle, such as the 12 months in the year, the 12 hours on the clock or the 12 signs of the zodiac. In fact, cultures around the world from ancient to modern times have developed calendars based on cycles of twelve. The number appears throughout mythological and religious traditions as well. The recurrence of the number twelve across the natural and spiritual world has given it a sacred and mystical quality which is universal. These aspects all play into the significance of one dozen roses.

5. Rose bouquets come in a variety of colors and are used to convey many different meanings for all types of occasions. However, there is often a common thread. It has become customary for rose bouquets to consist of one dozen roses. They can be used to represent perfect beauty or to express our complete love and gratitude. One dozen red

roses have become the definitive symbol for true love. Whatever the occasion may be, when the quantity of roses is one dozen it adds a wealth of magnitude to the underlying message. This is why sending a bouquet of one dozen roses continues to be such a popular way to communicate our most heart-felt sentiments.

6. When it comes to conveying a special meaning with roses, there is more than just the color to consider. The number of roses also plays an important role in the message, and the number most commonly associated with roses is one dozen. The traditional connotation of one dozen roses is love and appreciation, and when we think of a bouquet of roses, it is most often comprised of one dozen stems. This is a custom that has arisen from the significance of the number twelve within many aspects of nature, religion, and philosophy.

7. During the Victorian Era, the practice of flower giving took on an added dimension with the advent of the Language of Flowers. This elaborate conception associated a different meaning to all manner of flowers, including roses. Many of the meanings we attribute to different colors and numbers of roses survive from this period. One of the most significant is the use of one dozen red roses as a declaration of love. One dozen roses have also become a representation of perfection and completeness. These associations can be largely attributed to the symbolism of the number twelve itself.



Broom/Sword Jumping

(Takes place at the end of the ceremony.
May be done just before presenting as husband and wife)

(An African American Tradition)

More people are familiar with broom-jumping's use in African American wedding ceremony, than they are with pagans' use of this custom.

An English custom was for the groom to hold the broom parallel to the floor on one side of the room where the reception was held, with the unmarried men at the other side of the room. Then, at a signal, the men raced across the room and the first one to grab the handle was to be the next one to marry. Alternately, some Pennsylvania German Brides were tossed over the broom by unmarried women.



In some cultures, it was thought that in order to bring prosperity to their home, the first things a new wife should bring into the couples abode was a broom and either a box of salt or a head of garlic.

Another European folk belief stated that the groom's mother could divine what sort of woman her son's new wife was through the use of a broom. The groom's mother would arrive at the couples new home before they did, and would lay a broom across the threshold. If the Bride picked up the broom before entering, she would be a good housekeeper; alternately, if she just stepped over it, she would be a lazy wife. (A similar belief states that if the Bride didn't just step over the broom she was a witch. If she didn't pick up the broom, and immediately did step over it, she might be lazy, but at least she wasn't a witch!)

Both Celtic and African tradition, this ceremony symbolizes clearing away any negativity with a sweep of the broom and creating a threshold for the couple to cross over into their new life together. Broom is typically held by members of the bridal party, but could also be held by parents.

Burning Bowl

The Burning Bowl Ceremony is a time for releasing the past. It is a time for forgiving ourselves and others, so that the new journey can begin.

Releasing the past does not require us to change our feelings, necessarily, only to see ourselves in a new way. In this process it is not our essential beingness that we are releasing, only our pain. The process requires that we must see clearly that which we choose to leave behind, before we can accept the peace that comes from the release and begin the process of renewal and moving on.



This Burning Bowl Ceremony is also about accepting the greatness of who we truly are. Until we can do that, we will never know the beauty of peace of mind, heart, or soul. Without peace in our hearts, there can be no healing of body, mind, or spirit. With peace in our hearts, there can be Love.

The Bride and Groom have placed on these pieces of paper the things they most wish to release and leave behind so that they can start their journey together, only bringing with them the knowledge and lessons learned from their past without any of the pain or negative energy associated with it. Neither knows what is written on the others paper. It is only what each wants most to leave behind so that this marriage will have a fresh beginning to grow, learn and experience life TOGETHER.

Each will hold the paper over the burning flame and release it into the Universal Energy to be lifted and cleansed.

The burning bowl ceremony 2

The burning bowl ceremony can be as elaborate, or simple, as you want to design it. The first thing I do is have each person write on a small piece of paper something or some quality that they want to manifest in the upcoming month/year. Sometimes we will use runes or an angelic alphabet to write this out. Then we sign our magical/ medicine name. I like to add a pentacle as a seal. We then write on a separate piece of paper something or quality that they would like to give away in the upcoming month/year. This is their 'give away' prayer. For instance, "I give away my anger regarding my failed marriage." "I give away poor concentration in school." "I gave away my need for sweets."

Again I use a magical script to write this out in. Some people will use special paper to write this on, like flash paper. Or you might use a color that resonates to a particular angelic realm or quality that you want to manifest. I usually use plain white 2 x 4 inch paper. You can add any symbols to the message you like, for example an astrological symbol, or a symbol that has meaning and power to you.

You need a fireproof container to burn them in. I always do this ceremony outside. Have a lid handy for your container and a fire stick lighter. Create an altar with all of the elements represented on it. I have a cast-iron container that I only use for ceremony.

I always create a ceremonial space invocation/evocation calling the powers, elements and aspects that I desire in my circle.

Then I ask them to witness the prayers that we want to birth in the circle. I have each person speak his or her dream out loud. We put it in the bowl and the fire priestess, or high priestess, lights it with the fire stick. Every priestess in the group will witness the whole prayer burning and visualize the fire spirits taking it out on the ethers for manifestation. We go all the way around the circle with our manifestation prayers. Then we start our 'give away' prayers the same way. We ask our ancestors since all ways and for always to witness what we are intending to give away in this ceremony. Then we light that prayer. I am from the old school which interprets that if the piece of paper burns right up the prayers will be answered, if not, there might be a challenge to the prayer. When the fire priestess has to keep putting the flame to it, I know that there is something blocking that person's ability to manifest at that time or they are not ready to give away something.



After we all go around with our prayers, we thank all the powers, elements and all whom we invited in for their help. We open the circle. The burning bowl has been a powerful part of my monthly full moon circle. One 13-year-old girl manifested a puppy, and a horse among other things with this prayer tool. So she is quite thrilled with the opportunity there. It has been a great way for us to really focus on what we want to accomplish in the month ahead and banish any quality that might hamper us from doing it.

Butterfly Information

According to an American Indian Legend, if anyone desires a wish to come true they must first capture a butterfly and whisper that wish to it. Since a butterfly can make no sound, the butterfly cannot reveal the wish to anyone but the "Great Spirit" who hears and sees all. In gratitude for giving the beautiful butterfly its freedom, the Great Spirit always grants the wish. So, according to legend, by making a wish and giving the butterfly its freedom, the wish will be taken to the heavens and be granted. Temperatures should be at least 60 degrees for the butterflies. Or they will not be as active.



Butterflies are transformational creatures, going from caterpillar to larva and finally to a beautiful final entity that magically emerges and soars delicately through the air.

“Just as Steve and Christine's relationship has changed, transformed and grown into this new form. Now they are here in front of us to share this wonderful, magical change in the form of their wedding ceremony. This new transformation of being married will allow them to continue to grow, mature and continue to change. They will change each time a harsh word is spoken, each time a child is born, and each time they share themselves completely. So as we release these butterflies today, let us remember that change is inevitably a part of life. We set our spirit free, fly free Steve and Christine just as these butterfly's will soar into the sky so will your spirits fly free within the confines of this relationship”.

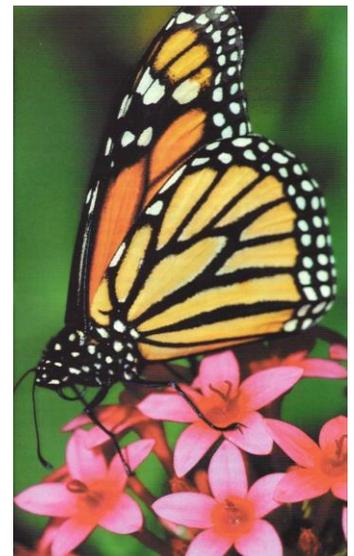


“Today we release the symbol of hope and love.

The caterpillar inched towards its end, and the butterfly burst forth towards its goal. The merging of these two paths symbolizes the union we have witnessed today.

It denotes both the end of your lives alone, and the beginning of your lives together. One could not have happened without the other.

Always remember that you had many steps to walk before you found each other, but never forget that you are now free to fly.”



A butterfly release is a unique experience. After you have spoken your vows, hand your

Bride or groom a beautiful little box with butterflies in it. They will be truly thrilled! Butterflies are symbols of the spirit of freedom and happiness. Your guest will surely appreciate this unusual opportunity to participate in the creation of your own Island beginning! It looks great on videos and photos. What could be more appropriate than to affirm your vows to one another "on the wings of a butterfly"? It will hold a special meaning for all to watch as your butterflies are released like your wishes...to soar into the heavens with good fortune. Imagine designated wedding guests releasing butterflies as you emerge together from your cherished ceremony. You will depart under a veil of fluttering beauties which will remain for just the right amount of time before they gently fly away! Some butterflies linger for several minutes before departing. You and your guests will never forget the magical appearance of these distinguished and elegant creatures.

Butterflies for sale can be found on the internet. However, they can be quite expensive. There are many farms that raise butterflies solely for this purpose. Most couples select the Monarch Butterfly, however there are several types of Butterflies to choose from.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Please see my manual 4 of 4 concerning Butterfly Release Poems and Readings.

The Butterfly Release - Memories That Will Last a Lifetime...

More and more people like yourself are hearing about the uncommon joy and special memories that a live butterfly release brings to an event. The butterfly release is an exceptional way to capture a special place in the hearts and memories of all those who attend.

The Friendliest Butterfly in the World!

The Monarch's elegance, friendliness, and graceful flight pattern will allow your guests to interact with these lovely creatures.

The Monarch Butterfly!

At Swallowtail Farms, they devote all of their efforts to raising the healthiest and liveliest Monarch butterflies. The Monarch is the largest and most beautiful butterfly available, with a wingspan twice as big as the "Painted Lady."



Monarch Butterfly
(wingspan approx. 4")



Painted Lady Butterfly
(wingspan approx. 2")

(Butterflies shown at correct relative size)

Butterfly Release Script



Sample Wording For Release Of Butterflies

**According to an American Indian Legend -
If anyone desires a wish to come true they must first capture a butterfly and whisper
that wish to it.**

**Since a butterfly can make no sound, the butterfly cannot reveal the wish to anyone
but the Great Spirit who hears and sees all.**

**In gratitude for giving the beautiful butterfly its freedom, the Great Spirit always
grants the wish.**

**So, according to legend, by making a wish and giving the butterfly its freedom, the
wish will be taken to the heavens and be granted.**

**We have gathered to grant this, [Steve and Jennifer](#) all our best wishes and are about
to set these butterflies free in trust that all these wishes will be granted.**

Wings: You have given me wings with which to fly.

**Now I breathe in deep and spread them wide as we lift off from the silken petals
into the wind where the butterflies glide.**

Coin Ceremony

1. A coin ceremony is usually a Latin Tradition.
2. During the coin ceremony the groom drops 13 coins into the Bride's hands representing her dowry and his vow to support her.
3. Sometimes the ring bearer will also take the coins in a coin purse down the aisle. The wedding officiate gives the coins to both the Bride and groom, usually pouring the contents of the purse into the Bride and groom's open palms. He will then say a blessing, wishing them prosperity.

The Coin Ceremony

The ceremony of the Coins represents the groom's dedication to the welfare of the Bride. It signifies the Bride and groom's mutual hope for wealth, prosperity, and security as they build their lives and family together. The metal tinkling of thirteen coins being passed from one pair of hands to the other signifies abundance and success in the couple's joint efforts.

May we have the coins, please.

[Minister drops 13 pieces of coin into Groom's hands, who in turn drops them into Bride's hands. Bride then drops the coins into Groom's hands again, who then returns the coins to the minister.]

Arras - Thirteen Gold Coins

The groom gives the Bride thirteen gold coins blessed by the priest. The **13 coins represent the Christ and his 12 apostles**. The Arras is given to the Bride as a symbol of the unquestionable trust and confidence the groom has in her.

Most often, he presents them in an ornate box, a silver or gold jewelry box, or on a silver or gold gift tray. Doing so, he also pledges to be a good provider and to support and care for his Bride as she becomes his wife. By accepting the arras, the Bride pronounces her unconditional trust and confidence in her groom. These coins become a part of their family heirloom.

Filipino Unity Ceremony

(Unity Candle, Vail, Cord, 13 14 Coins, Communion and Holy Water Ceremonies)

It is a Filipino tradition to light two candles (One for each of them) prior to taking their vows. They'll also have a Vail over the couple and a cord in which to inter-twine the two together signaling unity, as one.



The candle, veil, cord, and coins are four traditions routinely witnessed during a Filipino wedding.

Filipinos feel strongly about their heritage and actively incorporate their traditions into their weddings.

The Unity Candle



Attended by: Mr. Mike and Pam Whitters

Due to weather conditions, the Unity Candle lighting might have to take place indoors.

On both sides of the unity candle are long stemmed candles. Two representatives shall light the outside candles.

When it comes time for the wedding couple to light their center unity candle, the couple will light it with the candles that were lit by their representatives.

Will Mr. Mike and Pam Whitters please step forward and light the two outside candles.

After the two outside candles are lit; Steve and Christine will both take each candle and light the center candle together upon request.

For every human there is a light that rises out of us. When two souls unite their light flows together and forms a single, brighter light. Human light is an extension of spiritual light.

Steve and Christine, when you look at one another see the divine beings that you are, never cease to wonder and be amazed at the power and purpose of love.

In committing to one another you kindle one another's light and you spark the divine within them. Nurture and tend to that flame in your partner and never forget the existence of light within yourselves.

Steve and Christine, take these candles now and light the center candle representing the Divine Source. As you do so, you symbolically enter the sacred trust to honor the divine.

Now bring your flames together, symbolizing the new and greater flames of your marriage, and recognize that just as your union is now made stronger by your strength, you as individuals are also strengthened by the union.

(Candles are then returned to holders)

The Vail



Attended by: Barbara Gonzales and Jacinto Gonzales

The veil sponsors usually consist of one man and one woman - perhaps one from each side of the family. During a specific point in the ceremony, the veil sponsors carefully pin a large veil on top of the Bride's head and onto the shoulder of the groom. The veil symbolizes unity and that the couple shall be "clothed as one."

Will Barbara Gonzales and Mr. Jacinto Gonzales please step forward and pin the Vail on this one couple.

The Cord

(The Eternity Cord Ceremony)



Another set of sponsors are called the Eternity Cord sponsors. After the veil is placed on both the Bride and groom, the cord sponsors place a white cord loosely around the necks of the couple in a “figure eight” configuration, the symbol of infinity. The cord symbolizes the lifelong bond or tie between the Bride and groom who will now walk through life as equals.

This cord can be a silken rope or made from a string of flowers or links of coins. Here is the wording that I use.

Attended by: Casey Korny and Karen Stone

Will the eternity cord sponsors Mr. Casey Corny and Karen Stone please step forward and place the Cord on our bridal couple’s shoulder in a figure 8, the symbol of infinity.

May your Father above, and the Lord of Lords, and the Holy Spirit comfort you both; and give you love and peace forever now that you are bound together.

(Cord Sponsors place the cord.)

The Cord looped and crossed in the center is wrapped around the Bride and groom to symbolize the Blessed Trinity; the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit who are one and the same. This cord without beginning or end symbolizes this same union and the infinite and eternal nature of your marriage.

Will the sponsors of the Veil and Cord, now please reverse this bondage symbolically.

The 13 14 Coins





Attended to by: Mr. June Gonzales

Another strongly-held tradition is the Arras which translated into Spanish means “earnest money.” The Reverend will drop coins onto the hands of both **Mike and Susan symbolizing a life of fidelity and wealth.**

The following ceremony is called the 13 Coins, named after the 12 Apostles and for Jesus. The thirteen coins represent Christ and His twelve Apostles, and also remind us of the universal tenets of marriage; Love, Trust, Commitment, Respect, Joy, Happiness, Harmony, Wisdom, Wholeness, Nurturing, Caring, Cooperation and Peace.

Jesus actually makes up the 13th coin. However, after Judas died the Apostles had to pick a replacement, namely Matthias (Acts 1:12-26). Therefore, there were actually 13 Apostles. So now there are 14 coins used.

Jesus chose his closest followers very carefully. He needed people he could trust to send out His message and to continue the work when He was no longer around to lead the nascent Christian movement. The word "disciple" refers to a "learner" or "follower". The word "apostle" refers to "one who is sent out". While Jesus was on earth, the twelve were called disciples. The twelve disciples followed Jesus, learned from Him, and were trained by Him.

After Jesus' resurrection and ascension, Jesus sent the disciples out (Matthew 28: 18-20; Acts 1:8) to be his witnesses.

They were then referred to as "The Twelve Apostles".

Will Mr. June Gonzales please come forward with the 14 coins and assist me with this ceremony.

Mike and Susan, will you please hold out your hands together so that you'll both feel each coin drop into your hands. As each coin drops; keep them as a reminder of this day; your future fidelity, and wealth with each other.

These are the names of the Apostles

- 1. Andrew.**
- 2. Bartholomew (Nathaniel)**
- 3. James**
- 4. James, The Lessor**
- 5. John.**
- 6. Judas** Iscariot,
- 7. Matthew**
- 8. Matthias (Acts 1:12-26 (Very Good Reading))** After Judas killed himself in the field Akeldama (Field of Blood), the remaining 11 Apostles drew lots and picked Matthias as Judas' replacement.
- 9. Philip.**
- 10. Simon (called Peter).**
- 11. Simon** the Patriot,
- 12. Thaddaeus, and**
- 13. Thomas.**
- 14. This 14th coin represents Jesus, who was also an Apostle.**

May God bless your both.

Communion



Both **Paul and Nancy** take communion together as a sign of God's love for each another.

The earliest written books of Christian scripture are the letters, or epistles, of Saint Paul, the apostle to the gentiles. In his first letter to the church he had founded in Corinth, usually attributed to Paul's two-year stay in Ephesus (between 53 and 57 AD) Paul described the Last Supper:

“ ²³For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The body of the Lord Jesus

The Blood of the Lord Jesus.

Blessing With Holy Oil

FRANKINCENSE & MYRRH ANOINTING OIL

In temple days, sweet incense containing Frankincense was placed on the Inner Altar of the Tabernacle and burned morning and evening. It speaks of Intercession.

Myrrh, used as a burial spice and in purification rites, was a primary ingredient of the Holy Anointing Oil. It speaks of

suffering and death, but our total deliverance in the atoning work of Jesus.

Frankincense & Myrrh, two of the three prophetic gifts given to Jesus at His birth, represent His role as Priest and Prophet, signifying all that Jesus would do and continues to do on our behalf.

In the name of your Father in Heaven, Jesus the Christ of Bethlehem, and of the Holy Spirit, I ask their blessings upon you.



Mothers Rose Presentation

(Usually placed before the vows)

Marriage is the celebration of coming together of two lives and it is a celebration of two people in love.

The love that Groom and Bride feel for one another is a seed that their parents planted in their hearts years ago and today it has blossomed.

Today, as they embrace each other in their love, they also embrace the families, which have come together on this happy occasion.

As a sign of their love for their families, BRIDE and GROOM would like to offer these roses, to their mothers as symbols of their eternal love.

These Roses are a promise that no matter how far away you are that you are not forgotten and that you are always in their hearts.



Sand Ceremony Samples #1 - #9



Sand Ceremony - 1

(Groom): We have sealed our relationship by the giving and receiving of rings and the exchange of a kiss.

(Bride): This covenant is a pledge that we will commit ourselves to one another throughout our lives.

(Groom): Today, our relationship is symbolized through the pouring of these two individual containers of sand.

(Bride): This one represents me, and all that I was, all that I am, and all that I will ever be.

(Groom): This one represents me, and all that I was, all that I am, and all that I will ever be.

(Bride): As we combine the sand into a third container, our individual containers of sand will no longer exist, but will be joined together as one.

(Groom): Just as these grains of sand can never be separated and poured again into the individual containers, so will our marriage be.

Sand Ceremony -2

Today, this relationship is symbolized through the pouring of these two individual containers of sand one, representing you BRIDE and all that you were, all that you are, and all that you will ever be, and the other representing you, GROOM, and all that you were and all that you are, and all that you will ever be. As these two containers of sand are poured into the third container, the individual containers of sand will no longer exist, but will be joined together as one. Just as these grains of sand can never be separated and poured again into the individual containers, so will your marriage be.

Sand Ceremony - 3

BRIDE and GROOM, today you join your separate lives together. The two separate bottles of sand symbolize your separate lives, separate families and separate sets of friends. They represent all that you are and all that you'll ever be as an individual. They also represent your lives before today. As these two containers of sand are poured into the third container, the individual containers of sand will no longer exist, but will be joined together as one. Just as these grains of sand can never be separated and poured again into the individual containers, so will your marriage be.

Sand Ceremony - 4

(Bride) and (Groom), you have just committed yourselves to one another through sacred vows. Your lives are no longer two, but one. To symbolize this joining, we ask that you each pour some sand into this bottle. (Each scoops some sand from the beach and pours it into the bottle.)

Sand Ceremony - 5

(Bride) and (Groom) as you pour your sand into the one container, please repeat after me: "As these grains of sand merge together as one, I merge my life with yours. Please take my love throughout the sands of time. My heart is forever in your keeping."

Sand Ceremony - 6

(Bride) and (Groom) as these grains of sand are joined together, so are your hearts, your bodies and your souls in marriage. Please repeat after me: (Add your vows here.)

Sand Ceremony - 7

Sand Ceremony With Children Involved

(Children's name/s) your mother (and/or father) and (name) love you very much, and want you to know that you are and will always be a very important part of their lives. Will you please pour some sand into this glass container along with your good wishes? That would mean so much to them.

Sand Ceremony - 8

At the instruction of the officiate, the couple moves to a table holding two small containers of sand and a larger, empty container.

There is a song that speaks of "a long and winding road" and before you met, your lives



were on such a road... each going in different directions and seemingly leading to different destinations.

But somewhere along the way you took a fork in the road to a destination called "love" and today you find yourselves standing together at the entrance of a new path that will join your once separate journeys into one.

Before each of you there is a container of sand. Each container represents the separate journeys you once were on. They also represent your own sets of friends and families that once were apart. I will ask that in a moment you both blend your individual container of sand together... representing the coming together of your friends and family, through your marriage, into one. And as the sand is blended into one container, your once solitary journeys will now be one of companionship, as you walk a single path together into your future.

I now ask that you blend your containers of sand together.

The couple picks up their individual containers of sand and blend them together.

As the sand has blended together, your lives are now joined. Your friends and family are as one as well, for now you will share those who are in your lives and will walk hand-in-hand along the path of your marriage - united and strong as husband and wife.

Sand Ceremony – 9

(usually placed after the ring exchange)

I like this ceremony.

This can also be used as a family ceremony and have each child have their own color of sand.

GROOM and BRIDE you have just sealed your relationship by the giving and receiving of rings and this is a pledge between two people who agree that they will commit themselves to one another throughout their lives.

Today, this relationship is also symbolized through the pouring of these two individual containers of sand. One, representing you, GROOM and One Representing you BRIDE and all that you were, all that you are, and all that you will ever be. As these two containers of sand are poured into the third container, the individual containers of sand will no longer exist, but will be joined together as one.



Just as these grains of sand can never be separated, our prayer for you today is that your lives together would be blended like the seven seas and may your love swirl around each other like the changing tides.

Sand and bottles can be purchased at craft stores or at most fish supply stores

When Selecting a container for the sand choose one with a wide mouth and a cork stopper so it can be kept as a keepsake.

Family Sand Ceremony #10

Parents, today you are making a life-long commitment to share the rest of your lives with each other and honor your children as well.

Your family relationship is symbolized through the pouring of these individual containers of sand; one, representing each one of you, all that you are, and all that you will ever be,

There are children who will share in this marriage. The gathering of this new family will have a deep influence upon them. We realize that in order for the home to be a happy one, it is essential that there be love and understanding between the children and the adults being married.

As you each hold your sand the separate containers of sand represent your lives to this moment; individual and unique. As you now combine your sand together, your lives also join together as one family. You may now blend the sand together symbolizing the uniting of the children and Bride and groom into one.

Just as these grains of sand can never be separated and poured again into the individual containers, so will your marriage and your family be.

With this marriage, these two families are joined.

(To the kids:)

- Each of you is now a resource into which, as family members, you may come to, throughout your life times, for direction, meaning, and love.
- Your Mom and Dad strive to provide not only the basic needs, but a nurturing and loving environment in which each of you find the confidence to reach the highest goals of your hearts, minds, and spirits.

This is part of their vision of what your family is.

Do you each accept the responsibility of being an important part in the building of this family, and to forever contribute your best efforts to maintain the closeness and strength? If so, say, "We do."

Family Unity Sand Ceremony #11

This afternoon, your relationship was symbolized through your vows, the exchange of rings and the sharing of wine. Now, through the pouring of individual containers of sand.

Your sand ceremony is also a sign of your connection to others beyond yourself. As there are grains of sand on a beach, let us remember we live in a community of family and friends, who support you with their love and who enrich your lives with the gifts of their enthusiasm. May you always reciprocate in sharing your abundant love and caring.

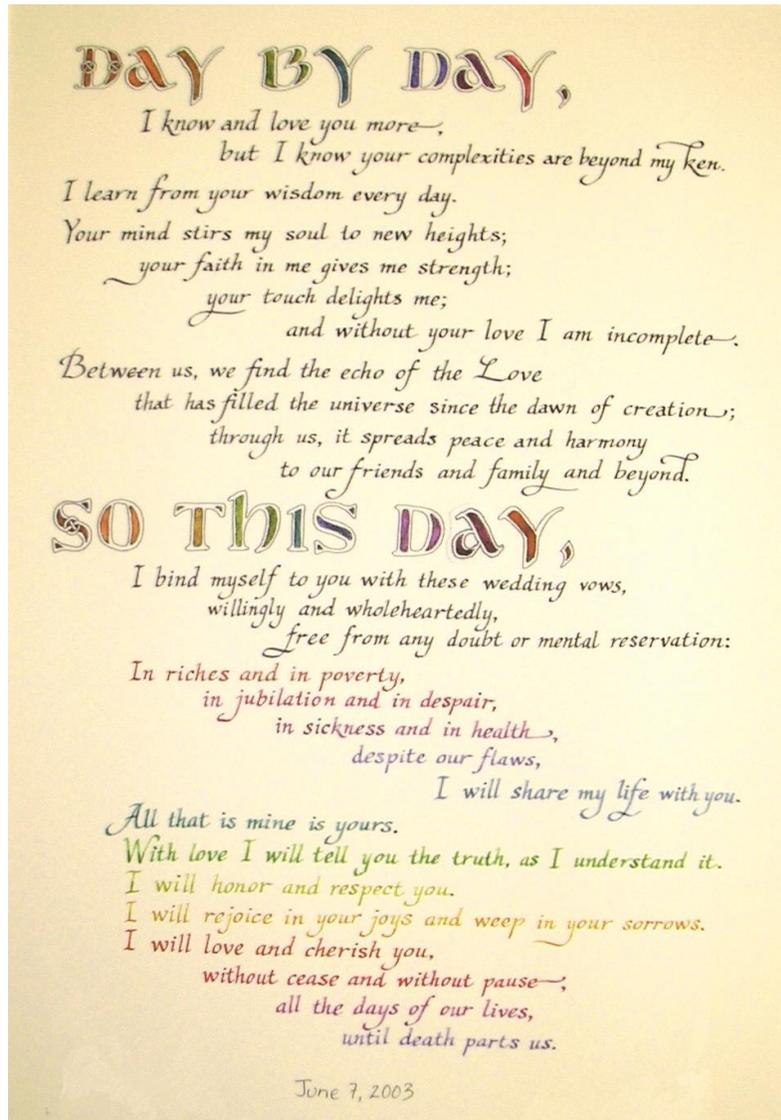
At this time, we would like to invite your children, Steven, Michael, Jackie, and Marilyn to come forward. The individual sand colors represent each of your own personalities and individuality. As you pour the sand colors together into the unity vessel . . . you are creating a symbol of your newly created family . . . now uniquely shaped and shared as one entity – joined together as one.

Just as these grains of sand can never be separated and poured again into the individual containers, so will your family be a beautiful combination of all that each of you are together. May each of your lives be so much richer and fuller because of your sharing and flowing with each other.

4th Musical Rendition

Interlude: This song (or songs) are played at various points during the ceremony, such as when the couple is lighting the unity candle.

*WEDDING VOWS



Please Review Manuals #31 - #34 For Well Over 1,999 More Wedding Vows That
Are Located On The DVD

Wedding Vows & Readings

So you thought it'd be great to write your own vows, but now a healthy dose of writer's block (not to mention fear of embarrassing yourself) has hit you squarely on the head. Don't know how to transform your heavy, life-altering, feelings into a string of coherent words? You're not alone -- but don't worry, your goal is within reach: Just take it one word at a time. Here's the homework you need to do (and the questions you should ask) to make your wedding words letter-perfect.

Prep Step A: Get clearance

Make sure your officiate will accept personalized vows. Catholic and Episcopal congregations, for instance, may require you to recite all or part of the traditional vows, though in most cases that's left to the officiate's discretion. Remember: Even the most accommodating officiate will want to review your words in advance.

Prep Step B: Make a plan

You need to tackle the logistics to make sure you and your fiancé are both on the same page: Are you each going to write your own, or will you write them together? Will you show them to each other before the ceremony?

Reverends Note: I very highly **recommend** that you **do not** show each other your wedding vows. For one reason, your fiancé will want to change one word, than part of the sentence, than it goes to 2 sentences, etc. Your vows are yours! You may, if you want to; show other friends for recommendations. But your vows are yours alone.

Make your scrambled eggs with onions and ketchup the way you like them. You are my dreamboat of the Mississippi, and I will sail with you any way you like. I'm just flabbergasted about your brown eyes and hairy legs. You make me feel so important.

Page 2 of 4

My dear wittle, bitty bunny wabbit. I adore how you make me happy and feel all goowee inside. I have known you for over 7 years and can hardly wait until we start a family of our own. I admire your determination in life and will support you every day. My love for you will grow each day and therefore I will

Page 1 of 4

Also, if you have long vows for each other, I will be more than happy to put them on 5x8 cards for you. See the example above:

Reverends Note: If you're feeling shy, opt to write your vows together and even recite the exact same promises. If there's more you wish to say, privately, say it in the cards you exchange on the day of your wedding or on your honeymoon.

Prep Step C: Create your outline

An outline can help to establish a structure that you both stick to. For example, plan to first talk about how great your fiancé is, then about how great you are as a couple, then about what you're vowing to each other.

Prep Step D: Find your voice

What overall tone do you want: Humorous and touching? Poetic and mushy? It's your call -- the most important thing is that your vows ring true and sound like they're from your heart.

Prep Step E: Cut it down

Finally, pick a length and stick to it by keeping the mantra pithy and to the point in mind -- anything longer than a minute or so, and no matter how gorgeous your prose, the audience will start to squirm.

Ready to Write!

What exactly do you say? To help you think of sentiments to include, take turns answering this list of questions. When you're done, look through your answers for the phrases that best capture your intended message and incorporate them into the structure of your vows.

Most couple's feel that their love is truly unique, a special bond between the two of them that no one else will ever experience in quite the same way. They're right.

Writing your own views can be an intensely moving and intimate way to create a ceremony that truly reflects the way you feel about each other.

Before you can effectively express your feelings, you'll need to identify them. It's Important to talk to each other about your marriage, discussing your beliefs, dreams, and expectations. Take notes on this conversation and use it as the foundation for building your own custom made vows. Once you identify the things that are the most important to you, then you can decide how best to express them.

Here are some questions to get you started.

When and where did you first meet?

What was the state of your life before the two of you met?

At what point did you realize you were in love? Describe the feeling.

What inspires you about your loved one?

What life goals and dreams do you share?

What have you learned from each other?

What qualities make your love unique? What qualities will keep it strong?

How has your view of the world changed since you fell in love?

What do you most look forward to about life with this person?

What are some special moments in your relationship, either happy or sad, humorous or profound?

IMPORTANT TIPS!

The vows themselves should only take two or three minutes to say to one another. This is a public declaration of your commitment, not a private conversation between the two of you.

Don't embarrass your friends and family with details that are too intimate or lengthy.

Sincerity is the key; the words should come from your heart.

Decide whether or not the two of you will recite the same vows or different ones.

Incorporate your wedding guests into your vows by having them responded with their blessings and support.

Discuss your personal vows with your officiate beforehand.

Read your vows out loud, which is a surprisingly effective way to catch errors, glitches, or awkward phrasing.

Additional thoughts on your commitment to marriage may be expressed in the main body of the ceremony or through the use of special poems and prayers.

20+ Tips for Writing Your Own Vows

1

What did you think when you first saw him/her? Start from the beginning -- you didn't want to go out and now you're grateful your friends dragged you out? How to use: When we met at _____, I knew _____.

2

When did you realize you were in love? The more specific you are able to be, the more touching the story. Was it when he helped you bring your sick puppy to the vet? How to use: I knew I was in love when _____. Don't underestimate the power of humor. Throw in at least one more playful sentiment (When she recited Don Steveingly's RBI record...).

3

What do you have now that you didn't have before you met? Focus on the heart and head, not material possessions. Has she taught you to appreciate beauty differently? Has he helped you learn to savor creating a home-cooked meal? How to use: Before I met you, I _____. Now I _____.

4

How has your worldview changed? Life has likely gotten better since the two of you joined forces, so tell everyone about it. How to use: Because of you, I see the world _____. Having trouble? Think about the new things you've tried with your mate -- what have you experienced together that you never would have on your own?

5

What do you miss most when you're apart? This will probably be something mundane but powerful -- what about his smile first thing in the morning, or the way she puts out your lucky mug for your morning coffee? How to use: You are such a part of me that when you're gone, I _____.

6

Where do you see yourselves in 10 years? 20 years? 40 years? Go deeper than Happily married in a big house. What are your long-term hopes, dreams, and goals? How to use: I look forward to _____, laughing and _____ as we _____.

7

Is there a line from a movie, song, or poem that says it all? It's okay to borrow, as long as it's not too much of a cliché (we're sorry, but *You complete me* is suffering from overuse). Instead modify something familiar to personalize. How to use: Subtly. I watch you _____, and I think to myself, what a wonderful world.

8

Do parts of the traditional vows resonate with you? Maybe you're not so sure about the obey part, but can you really go wrong with love, cherish, and...? How to use: Try I promise to cherish and honor you _____, but add a time frame and funny reference for levity: ...all the days of my life, especially when curled up on the couch with takeout.

9

Can you think of a funny or touching experience that put your partner in a new light? The way he played with your little cousin or helped your grandmother up the stairs showed you that under his macho exterior is a wittle, bitty bunny wabbit and you love him for it. How to use: When you _____, I saw you for the _____ person you are. And that made me want to _____.

10

Is there a harrowing experience that strengthened your bond? This one rides tandem with #9. How to use: See #9.

11

What goals and values do you both have? Stating your common bond may just expose your inner Wordsworth. These ties -- whether your shared faith or your mutual love of wine -- will also help demonstrate why you're a perfect pair. How to use: We share _____, so together we can _____.

12

What about him/her inspires you? What is it about your fiancé that you'd like to improve in yourself? What do you most respect about your partner? How to use: Your _____ has shown me how to be _____.

13

What promise can you make to codify your devotion? Here's an opportunity to personalize your vows -- many couples pledge their endless love, but how many promise to take the dog out in the morning, even in the snow? How to use: I promise to always _____.

14

How will you change together? You know what your goals are -- think about the steps the two of you will need to take together to reach them. How to use: I look forward to _____ as we _____.

15

What metaphor (or simile) would capture your love? Think of something that describes or defines your love: Is it strong like a castle? Peaceful like a mountain stream? How to use: Our love is like a _____ because it _____.

16

Why are you entering the bond of marriage? Think about why marrying your fiancé is so special. You may be surprised how the answer leads you to the perfect words. How to use: To me, marriage is _____. With you, it's _____.

17

What will keep your marriage strong? Find the bedrock of your relationship. What makes your relationship tick? Is it your resilience? Your shared sense of humor? How to use: Even when _____, we will have _____.

18

What are you most looking forward to about married life? The wedding is just the beginning. How to use: I look forward to _____ as we embark on _____.

19

What do you expect out of married life? Defining your expectations will help you make and keep promises. Think about your dreams, and what you'll have to vow to do to make them come true. How to use: I know our marriage will _____ and I vow to _____.

What words do you associate with love? Make a list of romantic terms so you can avoid overusing love -- too many repetitions dilute its power. How to use: My devotion/adoration/ passion is _____

=====

November 2, 1856

I already love in you your beauty, but I am only beginning to love in you that which is eternal and ever precious - your heart, your soul. Beauty one could get to know and fall in love with in one hour and cease to love it as speedily; but the soul one must learn to know. Believe me, nothing on earth is given without labor, even love, the most beautiful and natural of feelings.

Count Leo Tolstoy, Russian writer, to Valeria Arsenev, his fiancé.

***In The Words Of Lovers (15 Personal Vows)**

The exchange of vows is the spiritual foundation of a wedding ceremony. I hold that if a bride and groom compose their own vows, those words, as given by them, will exceed the importance of anything their minister might say about them during their entire ceremony. For a personalized vow exchange is the verbalized expression of two hearts in love. A minister however can only offer what he or she believes the couple is feeling for each other. Personalized vows are the real-deal, right from the source.

And it is you who needs to give these words - not a minister - who by accounting your dating history and other anecdotal stories about you, hopes to convince your audience he or she has known you for a lifetime. Few guests are fooled by this.

I tell my couples: There are reasons you both are marrying each other. What are they? Those reasons, along with some of the trials and tribulations you both went through to get here, along with a humorous insight or two about your personalities,- those make vows!

Commitments and pledges of fidelity are great for your vows, but go easy, slavery ended with Lincoln. Your guests want to know what's on your heart and what led you to this moment, standing before them, as you speak to the one you love.

Wedding vows can be short or long; length is irrelevant. I will begin with a short vow exchange used at one of my ceremonies to show you how easy this is. Then the longer ones follow, some of which are almost short stories. My thanks to all the couples who allowed me to share their vows with you!

1. A Simple and Short Wedding Vow.

I, _____, choose you _____,
To be no other than yourself,
Loving what I know of you, trusting what I do not yet know.
I will respect you as an individual, a partner, and an equal.
I promise to laugh with you when times are good, and endure with you
when they are bad.
I will always adore, honor and encourage you.
You are my best friend, and I will love you always.

2. Wedding Vows of Dixon and Jaime.

Dixon to Jaime

Dear Jaime: We've been together seven years, and as I stand here with you, I can't help thinking back to the beginning, when you were living in Bolingbrook and I was living in Logan Square. One Sunday morning, soon after we started dating, I found myself driving

home from your house. It was a hot, humid summer day, and I had a fair amount of work to finish that evening. Suddenly, my tire blew out and I was forced to pull over. With no cell phone in hand, I was stranded on the side of the road.

It didn't take me long to realize that I couldn't sit on the shoulder of I-55 as cars whizzed by at 70 miles per hour. So I climbed up a grassy embankment, hopped a fence and ended up in someone's yard. Not knowing where I was, I found my way to the nearest street and followed it until I saw a supermarket. It was there that I found a pay phone and dialed your number. No answer. So I left a message, went into the store, bought a bottle of cold water, drank some of it, sat on the curb, waited a few minutes, and called you again. Still no answer. So I left a message letting you know I was going back to my car. My Jeep Grand Cherokee with three working wheels, whose slogan should have been, "**Top of the line in utility sports. Unexplained fires are a matter for the courts.**"

Thirty minutes later, I found myself sitting in my still hobbled vehicle, listening to the radio, enjoying the air conditioning, and wondering what to do next. I hit on the brilliant idea of driving very slowly along the shoulder until I reached the next exit, then finding my way to the nearest garage. But just as I hit the accelerator, you sped past, scanning the side of the road and wearing a look of deep concern. Then our eyes met and your expression changed to one of relief. Believe me, I was relieved too. I had never been so glad to see anyone in my entire life.

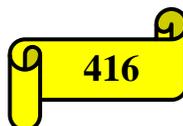
Until today that is.

Today, I'm honored to tell you that I love you. And to tell you that I want to share the rest of my life with you. I sometimes think back to that day when I was stuck on the side of the expressway and marvel at how lucky I was that you showed up when you did. It's the same kind of luck that brought you into my life in the first place, and the same kind of luck that brought us here today.

That day on the expressway was not without its challenges. (My favorite was the fact that, after we hit the road again, my tire completely fell off the rim just as we reached an overpass and the shoulder disappeared from under us. Or the fact that every mechanic in the area was too busy fixing his Canyonero to stay open on a Sunday. (and who can forget the lack of air conditioning in your Cavalier on the ride home?) Just like that day, our marriage will not be without its challenges. But just like that day, I can't imagine facing them without you.

In fact, I can't imagine any part of my life without you. I'm overjoyed that you're here with me today, and I can't wait to start this new chapter of our lives together, to set out on the road with you by my side.

Jaime to Dixon



Dixon, there is no emotion for what I feel today - and every day - about you. I Can't imagine my life without you. I can't imagine a New Year's Eve where you aren't there to kiss me at midnight or a sunny weekend where we don't go on some big adventure or any point in time where you and I aren't arguing about whether the details in one my stories are exaggerated. I don't want to.

All I want is what we already have: true love.

So I'm not going to ask you to make any promises, and I won't make any either. I'm just going to say that I love you, will always love you, and that you are the only person I'll ever love this much.

Dixon, you are the love my life and I choo-choo-choose you.

3. Wedding Vows of Missy to Ryan.

Missy to Ryan

Ryan, that Friday before we met at Snowball, I promised myself that I wasn't going to the retreat to meet boys. I was going to obtain leadership qualities that I could take back to my high school. However, I came back that Sunday with some of those leadership qualities and the phone number of the man standing in front of me today.

I knew you were special from the day we met at Snowball. Maybe it was the bright purple football jersey or the bleach blonde hair... but that day you entered my life as well as my heart.

Ryan, we have been dating for 6 years and engaged for 4 of them and now I FINALLY will become your wife. I wish I could say that this is the happiest day of my life, but I know the truth is that this will only be ONE of the happiest days that we will share together. Life will take us on many journeys, some good others not so good, but there sin;'t anyone I would rather have at my side.

Ryan, in tradition, here are some of the promises I intend to keep as your wife:

- I promise to be the best wife possible.
- I promise to love you always.

- I promise to let you have wife-free time to go fishing or hang out with the guys or whatever.
- I promise to take care of you when you are sick, but still make you go to work when you are faking.
- I promise to pair a chick flick with a guy movie, but you have to try to stay awake during the chick flick.

- I promise to only set an alarm on weekends when it is absolutely necessary.
- I promise to let you be a country boy.
- I promise to let you love your truck almost as much as you love me, and I'll try not to be jealous.

Ryan, on a more serious note, in the 6 years that we have been together... you have asked me to be your girlfriend and you have asked me to marry you. Well now it is my turn to ask you a very important question in the best country girl way I know how...

Ryan, you know what I'm a wishin
 We were a huggin and a kissin
 And holding each other tight...
 So Ryan
 Could ya
 Would ya
 Ain't ya gonna
 If I asked you... would you wanna
 Be my HUSBAND for LIFE?

4. Wedding Vows of Brian and Kim.

These vows were exchanged at the same time with Brian and Kim alternating

Brian and Kim together: I promise...

Kim: to ask your help

Brian: to lean on you when I need to

Kim: to give you time to sort out your feelings

Brian: to tell you what's on my mind

Kim: to take a break from reality and let in a little romance

Brian: to surprise you with flowers and hold your hand

Kim: to quit screaming at the TV when Jay Cutler throws an interception

Brian: to buy bigger earplugs so your screaming doesn't bother me

Kim: to support you in whatever you choose to do

Brian: to support you in whatever you choose to do

Brian: I promise to pay attention to details

Kim: to try to see the pig picture

Brian: to respect your mind and encourage your love of learning

Kim: to remind you of your talents and cheer for your successes

Brian: to teach you more about cars so you don't interrupt during Nascar wrecks

Kim: to pay little attention so you will continue to change my oil and check out those weird noises

Brian: to put you first

Kim: to put you first

Kim: I promise to tell you I love you and need you

Brian: to show you I care and that you matter

Kim: to seek your opinions and trust your judgments

Brian: to ask your advice and consider your suggestions

Kim: to honor you, cherish you, and hold you in my heart

Brian: to hug you, kiss you, and keep you in my thoughts

Kim: I promise to love you

Brian: I promise to love you

[Note: Notice how the vows start out real serious and then Kim says- "**to quit screaming at the TV when Jay Cutler throws an interception.**" When she said that the entire audience broke out in laughter and Brian had to wait for it to die down before he could say.. "**to buy bigger earplugs so your screaming doesn't bother me.**" Again the audience broke out in laughter. The same thing happened again when Brian mentioned Nascar and Kim answered him with her own come back. This is an outstanding use of humor in a vow exchange.]

5. Wedding Vows of Trey and Amanda.

Trey to Amanda

Little did I know that fateful day I went to Rush hospital I would meet my future wife. I knew from the moment I met you that day that there was something different about you and I was right - you're a Cubs fan!

[Trey is a White Sox fan]

There definitely was a "spark" as they say, an instant attraction. Looking back, I would have to say it was your stunning blue eyes and true smile that got my attention first. But there was more there that wouldn't let me stop thinking about you after I left that day, and I haven't stopped thinking about you since (even during both of my bachelor parties!).

I went back a couple of days later and mustered up the courage to find you again and ask for your number and I have to say it was the best decision I've made in my life. You are everything, and then some, I could have ever hoped for in a woman. Loving, caring, nurturing, sympathetic, thoughtful, intelligent. I would keep going but I don't want your head to get too big.

Seriously though, as my best friend Brian said.. "You found your Soulmate." We are alike in many ways but different in quite a few as well. You like to be punctual and prepared, I tend to be a little late and throw things together at the last minute (and for the record, I am better than I used to be, but I have to admit it's because of your positive influence).

I have never felt such balance in a relationship and that is one of the main reasons I believe that we will be able to overcome anything together. It's just too bad there's only one great baseball team in Chicago right now (and we know who that is, right?)

I look forward to raising a family together, and spending the rest of my life with you. You're going to make a wonderful mother when the time comes, I just hope that time comes a little later rather than sooner (because I'm not ready to share you just yet!)

I promise to be faithful, to be as selfless as I can be, by putting you, us, and eventually our family above all else.

It may seem like I forget a lot of things, but I will never forget our first handshake in the parking lot at Champs. (when I stole your heart with one firm shake!) I will never forget our first kiss in that Bennigan's parking lot.

And I will never forget the kiss we share today in this ceremony (and I hope it's a long, long time before we share our last kiss.

I love you always and forever!

Amanda to Trey

From the first time I laid eyes on you, I absolutely melted, literally! My hands were clammy and I became a sweaty mess. And there was something about that feeling that let me know there were good things to come. From our first date, to our first handshake, our first kiss, our first Cubs game, and for your sake- a Sox game.

We've shared our first ski trip- or "tumble down the mountain", an awesome trip to Hawaii and had many other amazing firsts. So when someone asks me how I knew you were "the one" I can easily say I have found someone, who just like me, has been raised by amazing parents and surrounded by awesome friends.

And now I can say, as we stand up here today, I recognize that I have gone from one loving, caring home to another. A place where I'll continue to feel loved, respected and appreciated every day. So now we share our first home together - and we get to look forward to many more firsts together.

But today I can say that I have had my favorite first. Today I marry the man of my dreams and begin the first day of the rest of my life with you. I feel like the luckiest girl in the world. I've called you my favorite for a long time and I promise to hold you as number one in my heart. I promise to love you, to be faithful to you, to be your partner and to always be your friend.

I thank you for loving me and will always appreciate you. With our family and friends by our side I promise you forever.

6. Wedding Vows of Jennifer and Joe.

Jennifer to Joe

I remember when I first saw your Norwegian blue eyes at the Algonquin Library, and decided, with great certainty, "he is the one for me." Then I remember when we officially met at the Lincoln Story League Luncheon, how I could tell by the way you focused so intently on me in a room of other lady librarians, that I was the only one you wanted to be with. I am here today, because of the way I felt back then, and the way I still feel when I hear your key turning in the lock and I run to the door, my heart still racing after all this time.

I used to believe that living up on a mountain, in a cabin surrounded by pine trees, would be the only thing that would make me happy. You encouraged that dream as I went from Barrington, to Baraboo, and back again. Here I am, home at last, because any place that you are is exactly where I need to be. How far I've come from the notion that living in a certain place could make me happy. Whether we are taking a late night walk, camping in the rain, eating a picnic lunch, or just lying on the couch, you are my home.

I love you, and I can't wait to be Mrs. Jennifer Drinka. By marrying to you today, I promise to listen to you when you are sad, find you when you are lost, encourage you when you have an idea, make you late night noodles and tomatoes when you are hungry, scratch your back when it's itchy, and always by Miss Piggy to your Kermit, the Mama Bear to your Papa Bear, and the Fiona to your Shrek.

Joe to Jennifer

Jennifer, I vow to revel in that you have so much spunk. In addition to being patient, I will honor, respect and appreciate you. Furthermore, I plan to provide you with love and comfort, and make you safe and warm in my arms. I vow to be a partner, confidant, and team player as well.

Jennifer, I also vow to listen to what you have to say, smile for you, and to consider your views. I will help protect you from the cruel outside world, play board games with you, come up with good ideas for doing activities together, and respect your love of gift shops.

Finally, I will develop personal hobbies of my own, and improve household handiness. I vow to take care of you, Jennifer, and go to the store for you when you are sick. Not only do I plan to use turn signals when we are driving together, but may you never have to lift and carry large items again.

7. Wedding Vows of Wendy to Paul.

Paul, from the first time you made me a gooey grilled cheese sandwich, I knew it was love. You are the most talented, generous, selfless person I know. You are not afraid to be yourself, and that I greatly admire. You are my best friend and accomplice, and I look forward to sharing the rest of my life with you. As we embark on this journey together, I promise to try to keep a light heart and a sense of humor. I will be honest, respect you and support you in your dreams and goals. But most of all, I promise to trust and love you with all my heart, and cherish you with all my soul forever and ever.

Note: This bride summed it all up, humor included, in just 7 sentences. Great vows are not a function of length. Don't try to write the Gettysburg Address Of Love. Just tell us what's on your heart and why you are marrying, throw in a little humor, and you're in!!

8. Wedding Vows of Anthony and Alexis.

Alexis to Anthony

I stand here before you because I am happier and more fulfilled today than ever, and because I want to share my love with you for the rest of my life. People are always looking for that perfect person to call their spouse. Some people never find that person, but I am one of the lucky ones. I found you.

Perfect may sound like a strong statement, but to me it means real. It means having someone who opens my mind to politics and opens my adventurous side to fishing. It means having someone to teach me to slow down, someone who literally does stop and smell the roses. It means having someone who knows all my secrets. It means having someone with whom I can share all of life's joys, and its tragedies, and who makes the everyday anything but blah.

It means someone who is honest and works hard for all he gets, someone with good values and desires for the future that match mine. It means someone with whom I can be intimate, physically, mentally and spiritually. And let's not forget, being real means being able to, in between these time of joy, discuss our differences, mediate our problems, and grow in our experiences. Anthony, I love you because you are perfectly real, and I promise to love you forever.

I promise to be your best friend, to have fun and enjoy life with you.

I promise to support you to reach all your dreams.

I promise to share your joys and comfort you in your sorrows.

I promise to be responsible in our finances, but not to let money rule our lives.

I promise to be the best mother to our future children that I can be.

I promise to be your faithful lover, and to work hard to fulfill our needs.
I promise to never forget this moment.

Anthony to Alexis

On this day which we chose to consecrate our commitment; I wish to express my reasons I wish to be with you, and promises I will uphold. I respect you in so many ways; I have learned from your example about work and dedication to integrity in all aspects of your life, you have never compromised your values.

Your heart is compassionate, evidenced by your commitment to caring for the little children through their suffering. You are understanding and willing to compromise because you chose to work and be with me for the betterment of our future. Lastly, your beauty is not only on the surface, but your pulchritude runs deep within.

I present the following promises because I believe that if I follow them our marriage and life together will be full of joy and wonder and our life will be an example for our children.

I promise one hundred percent fidelity.

I will not covet what is not under our roof; you and our children will be enough.

I promise soft kisses and warm hugs when times are tough, and lots of them just because I can.

I promise to never have a midlife crises and think that I have missed out; I know I have not.

I will be a good husband by sharing our responsibilities at least 50/50.

I promise to be there to teach our children all that I can about the world by being there and making them my best friends.

Lastly, I will admit when I am wrong and be a compromising partner so we can work together to solve our problems, so we can be together to enjoy our successes.

9. Wedding Vows of Leigh and Jill.

Leigh to Jill

[**Note:** This groom is a playwright and wrote his vows in poetry. He chose to capitalize certain words throughout his vows. I have left those words capitalized and recreate his vows as they appear on the original document.]

And YOU, my love, you are PESTERED by FEARS.
That TAKING a man would SWALLOW you whole;
That I would HOUND you past the point of TEARS,

ROPE and saddle you with a WIFELY role;
While I MORPH into TABLE-banging BRUTE
Who silently MAKES you wash, rinse and FOLD
And IRON and brush and mend ALL my SUITS,
LOCKING you inside a HOUSE that turns COLD.
But you KNOW well these AREN'T my wishes
You know I can't PUSH you to bake my bread
Or COOK my meals or WASH all my DISHES
YOU are your OWN woman, YES, even when WED.

NOW that we have COME to this JUNCTURE
Finally to bring TWO SOULS into ONE
Let us make SURE that our DREAMS don't get PUNCTURED
Nor should we EVER lose our sense of fun.
It's TRUE that our HOUSE has NO CHILDREN left
And NOW we CONFRONT our AUTUMN years
But there's NO cause for us to feel BEREFT
To WRING our hands or CUP EYES before tears.
There's a DOG to love and MORE a-coming
And a FRESH union that BIDS a new SPRING
And FRIENDS who come and keep HOUSE a-HUMMING
And ONTO your FINGER I'll slip your RING.

Men and women who near MARRIAGE time
WANT to know if their DECISION is right.
They want to be AWED by some GUIDING sign.
Perhaps a FLAMING bush or BURNING light,
Directed by PRIEST wielding inlaid TOME,
Who DECLARES them mates for ALL to review;

OR they will gather TIPS from Sharon STONE
In a CHECKOUT line SECRETLY previewed.
YES, before THIS couple enters NEW LANDS,
TOTAL assurance they WILL want to take.
The ANSWER, of course: It's ALL in their HANDS.
With EACH of them having a LIFE to make.
I STEPPED out of my SMALL space, then found YOU;
I tossed out YEARS of being on my OWN
And found a sweet SOMEONE to START anew,
Who will SHARE a house WE CAN call home,
A place to have FULL play of our YEARNING
And share LOVE in exchange for SOME freedom.
We'll TIE this knot with our HEARTS a-

THIS, our long, lovely JOURNEY to Eden.
I SEE it this WAY: We'll sit SIDE-by-side,
"Shall we STAY in or go OUT for dinner?"
Marriage is a STATELY, sometimes SHAMBLING ride
With each of us, half SAINT and half SINNER.

Jill to Leigh

I love you...
not only for what you are
but for what I am when I am with you.
I love you for taking me with you on
the Hero's Journey of wholeness.
I love you for the part of me that you bring out.

I love you because you are helping to make,
of the lumber of my life,
not a tavern but a temple.
Out of the moments of my every day,
not a reproach but a song.

I love you for looking deeply into my heart
and gently passing over all the foolish things.
And for drawing out the beautiful parts
That no one else dared look far enough to find.

I love you for loving me when I'm unlikable
for cherishing the small child within me
for challenging the grown-up
for teaching me the language of intimacy.

I love you for all the times we've shared
and all the times left to come:
For Spring Green and Maui and Dr. Phil
and fun times with Reggie
and bar-b-cues and crosswords and laughter.

You give me your past
And I feel honored.
You give me your insights
And I feel calmed.

You give me your strong arms
And I feel protected.
You give me your love
and I feel happy.
You give me your future
And I feel blessed.

10. Wedding Vows of Haley and Michael.

For nearly eight years our love for one another has grown stronger with each passing day. We have shared many beautiful moments and created countless memories that we will forever fondly look back on.

Through it all you have become my best friend, my lover, my companion and my confidante. You have given me a new outlook on life and courage to pursue my dreams.

On this special day, as we begin the next chapter in our journey together, I give you my heart and my word to be your best friend, your lover, your companion, and your confidante when our path takes unexpected turns, when life challenges us, and when life rewards us.

And to keep these vows close to my heart and live these vows all the days of our lives.

Haley,

The life and love we've had together for the last eight years has made me so happy and whole. Only having you as my wife would make me happier, and most complete.

I promise to make you laugh when you are sad, and to share your joy when you are happy. To adore you, and cherish you, and to stand beside you through whatever our life together brings.

I take you to be my wife, knowing that my love for you will never falter, and only grow stronger with each day we share.

I will be your honest and faithful husband, always and forever.

11. Wedding Vows of Ciara and Rob. (vows were used by both).

I take you (Ciara/Rob) this day as my (husband/wife). I promise to walk by your side forever as your best friend, your lover, and your soul mate.

You are the love of my life and I am proud to marry you. I promise to support your dreams and to be there for you for all eternity.

12. Wedding Vows of Gail to Jeff.

It's finally our special day! I've waited and dreamed my whole life for the feelings you give me. You are my dream come true! I know in my heart and soul that we will be together forever. I promise that I will always be faithful and true to you.

I love you more than words can say. I know you can feel it! And the best thing about it is that I feel all of your love in return. This is our beginning of forever.. thank you for choosing me to grow old with.

I love you Jeff!

13. Wedding Vows of Shannon and Brian.

(Brian's vows)

I knew you were someone special when we met. We started as friends just walking to class together. Now we are standing in front of our friends and family getting married. The years we have had, I would not trade for anything. We have had our fun time - cookouts, Cubs games, and dances at school among others - and now building our first home together and raising our puppies.

Like every relationship, we have had our problems, but from every problem we grew. With every problem we learned what it was going to take to make this relationship last.

Shannon, you mean the world to me. I can't imagine where I would be without you. You make me smile inside and out. I don't know how anyone could go through life without experiencing the cycle of love we have shared through the years. You have been a great girlfriend, an even better best friend, and now you'll be the greatest wife a man can ask for. I vow to you to be the best husband I can be, and to love and cherish you for the rest of our lives.

(Shannon's vows)

We have had an amazing journey together. You have been my best friend, my confidant, my entertainer, an amazing boyfriend and my greatest challenge. You have made me a better person as our love for one another is reflected in the way I live my life.

But most importantly, you are the love of my life and you make me happier than I could ever imagine and more loved than I ever thought possible. I am blessed to be a part of your life and would not trade a day we have shared for anything. I can't imagine my life without you.

So on top of all the other vows that I will make to you on our wedding day, I also vow to always appreciate how lucky I am to have someone who makes me feel the way you do and continue to try as hard as I can to make you feel as special as you make me feel every day of our life, which as of today, becomes our life together.

14. Wedding Vows of Bill and "Oosa".

Miss Oosa,

I realized how special you were on the blind date we met in St .Charles. Even though I couldn't see you hiding behind your steering wheel watching mw walk into Cordon Blues, I knew I was meeting a caring and loving person when we first saw each other and naturally had to hug when we introduced ourselves. I knew how much of a generous person you were when you gave me a bag of apples after our first date that you picked. Over the past three and a half years, you have given me so much for than apples. I have been the beneficiary of your compassion, love and companionship. We have shared so many memorable moments together, it was almost impossible for me to choose which one to include in these vows.

But, we were able to work on our vows together and remind each other of all the moments that make our relationship special. We remembered our cross country trips, bike riding in Sacramento, watching the Northern Lights, walking through the parks and sitting outside at home with our birds.

I know you were thinking of these things while you were writing your vows because I could hear you crying while you were writing. I realized shortly after we met that you weren't just the woman I wanted to spend my life with, you were the woman that I couldn't live my life without. I promise to spend the rest of my life with you. I will always support your goals and build our lives as we work together and grow this *Mawwidge*. I will love you, honor you, and care for you for the rest of our lives.

Bill,

Today is the day that we may share our bond with all our family and friends. From the first time we me where joy swept over me and I melted behind the steering wheel to our first embrace just inside the entrance to Cord on Blues. I knew there something special and unique about you. I began to realize that this was only the beginning of many more joys to come. Our love has only become stronger and more refined as we have worked through the challenges and struggles in our lives. But through those challenges I know that together we'll have the strength and support to overcome any obstacles.

It is your love and support that has strengthened my tenacity in all I choose to pursue. In that pursuit I also have had the pleasure of enjoying running around the parks with you,

biking the hills of Sacramento, or along the American river, or even just lying around a campfire under the stars. This is how I know that you Bill, are essential and necessary to bring completeness to my life.

Bill, may today be the beginning of the many wonderful times and a confirmation that we may succeed in any challenge that comes our way. The warmth and love I wait for at the end of a long day is the same love that I know will endure through the many years to come. Bill I love you, and thank you for this gift of your love and commitment.

15. Wedding Vows of Ryan and Sarah.

Sarah,

Today we join each other as husband and wife, together with all of the people in my life that have shared with me their love, friendship, and guidance.

They can now see what started as 2 kids throwing paper wads at each other in art class 13 years ago, has turned into a beautifully whole hearted union of mind and soul.

Everyone here has helped make us who we are today. And now after our lives crossed paths again it feels like we have always been together.

Together, we giggle at our jokes. And together, I will always be there for you.

Respecting your thoughts, and always talking with you. Making you laugh when things bring you down. Enjoying our life at its best and its worst. Loving you all day from morning to night. Together at heart, no matter how far apart. These things you know now, and all our days after.

Ryan,

As we stand here today in front of our friends and loved ones, I want to pledge my undying love and dedication to you and let you know that I have found in you the man I wish to spend the rest of my life with.

You are my best friend, my confidant, my lover and my partner. Together we have created a safe haven from the chaos of the outside world, and in you I have found comfort, joy and peace.

When I laugh, you are always there to share the joke, when I cry you are always there to wipe away my tears, when I yell, you are the one who, with quiet confidence, listens, understands and is always able to calm me down.

Today I make a promise to you that our friendship and mutual devotion will be the foundation through which we will carry each other through the bad times, laugh together through the good times, but most importantly, be together. Because of you, I understand what love is. It is the patience you show when I'm being stubborn and won't admit you're right, it is the kindness in your eyes every time you look at me. It is the complete trust you have in me that you're never jealous, and the respect you show me every time you open a door for me.

Love is the strength of our bond that makes no burden too great for us to shoulder. Love is the hope and the belief that our futures lie intertwined, and that you will be the man I grow old with.

Today, in front of all these people, I take you Ryan to be my friend, my partner, to love, to respect, to trust, to cherish and to hold above all others, to be my husband.

Marriage Vows

(Groom First, then Bride). In many wedding, the minister and the Bride and groom will move to the platform or to a higher level on the platform for this part of the ceremony. Most people still prefer the traditional vows, but many write their own, or adapt the traditional ones to some extent.

Did you know that wedding vows are more important to a wedding than the photography, cake and catering combined? The little words that marry you give meaning to everything else that happens during that day, and the promises that you make to each other during the ceremony set the parameters for your marriage.

So how do you find the wedding vows that are right for you? I recommend reading lots of them and seeing what feels right. Take Notes! And write down the meaningful ones. Some religions will insist that you use canonical wording, but may allow you to also say personal vows. Even if your religion doesn't require it, combining classic and non-traditional wedding vows can be a way of honoring tradition, while personalizing your ceremony.

Sample Wedding Vows

“In preparation for your vows, I invite you to face each other and join hands.”

The couple holds hand and faces each other.

To the Groom: _____ repeat this vow to _____ after me. I, _____, take you _____, to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish until death do us part, as God is my witness, I give you my promise.

To the Bride: _____ repeat this vow to _____ after me. I, _____, take you _____, to be my husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish until death do us part, as God is my witness, I give you my promise.

(These are alternate Vows that can be used in your Ceremony)

The officiate says to the groom: _____ will you look into _____'s eyes, and into her heart, and repeat after me?

Groom: I commit my life to our partnership in marriage. I promise to comfort you, to encourage you in all walks of life. I promise to express my thoughts and emotions to you and to listen to you in times of joy and in times of sorrow. _____, I love you, and you are my closest friend. Will you let me share my life and all that I am with you?

Bride: I will.

The officiant says to the Bride: _____ will you look into _____'s eyes, and into his heart, and repeat after me?

Bride: I commit my life to our partnership in marriage. I promise to comfort you, to encourage you in all walks of life. I promise to express my thoughts and emotions to you, and to listen to you in times of joy and in times of sorrow. _____, I love you, and you are my closest friend. Will you let me share my life and all that I am with you?

Groom: I will.

Groom: I promise you _____, that I will be your loving and loyal husband from now on and I will share with you all of life's joy and sorrow, pleasure and pain, until death parts us.

Bride: I promise you _____, that I will be your loving and loyal wife from now on and I will share with you all of life's joy and sorrow, pleasure and pain, until death parts us.



The Man, facing the woman and taking her right hand in his, says: In the Name of God, I _____ take you, _____ to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.
Then they loose their hands, and the Woman, still facing the man, takes his right hand in hers, and says:

In the Name of God, I _____ take you, _____ to be my husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

Repeat) "Before our friends and those so special to us here, on this wonderful day of gladness and good fortune, I _____ take you _____ as my wife/husband, in friendship and in love, in strength and weakness, to share the good times and misfortune, in achievement and failure, to celebrate life with you forevermore

I, (Bride/Groom), take (you/thee) (Groom/Bride), to be my (wife/husband), to have *and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish*; and I promise to be faithful to you until death parts us.

I, _____, take you, _____, as my best friend for life. I am so in love with you that I want to promise to stand beside you through thick and thin, through good and bad, through joy and sorrow. I want to spend the rest of my life hearing your thoughts and seeing your dreams. I promise to do my best to make our lives better and better from this day on because I am so amazed by you. This is my solemn vow.

From this moment, I, Name, take you, Name, as my best friend for life. I pledge to honor, encourage, and support you through our walk together. When our way becomes difficult, I promise to stand by you and uplift you, so that through our union we can accomplish more than we could alone. I promise to work at our love and always make you a priority in my life. With every beat of my heart, I will love you. This is my solemn vow.

I, _____, take you, _____, as the love of my life. I vow to be patient with you and the circumstances in our lives. I vow to be kind to all people we come across. I vow not to be boastful of our love or about our accomplishments. I promise to be proud of you, but not proud in love for though I will strive for perfection, I know I can never reach it. I promise not to be quick to anger, but to think before I speak and act. I vow not to keep a record of wrongs, but to always keep the happy memories alive. Through God, our love will never fail.

I, _____, choose you, _____, as my everything. I vow to love you through sickness and health, through the good and the bad, through richer and poorer. You are everything I need, and at this moment I know that all my prayers have been answered and that all of my

dreams have come true. This is the moment I have waited my whole life for. I promise to give you my all and

I know that I could not ask for more from you. I love you and always will. This is my solemn vow. You are my only love, my first and my last. I have loved you since the first moment we met and will love you until my last breath leaves my earthly shell. You are all that I desire in a partner, faithful, true, loving, and supportive. I will be these to you. I will never deceive or intentionally hurt you. I promise to be the best partner than I can be so that our marriage can be one of trust and love with overwhelming happiness.

Groom: Spouse's name, you have been my friend since my heart began to beat. I have loved you since you entered into my conscious thought. I promise to care for you and protect you forever and forever. I wish to be your guiding light and be near you this day until I draw my last breath. I promise to cherish you daily and walk through the trials of life by your side. I am taking your hand to testify my love to you and others here, that we may be united in truth and honesty.

Bride: Spouse's name, my heart skipped a beat the first moment I saw you. I have come to know you and respect you. I wish to care for you and enjoy life with you. I will be your shelter in your time of sorrow and pain. I will be your friend and guide in time of worry. I will be yours and yours only through the good and bad. I am taking your hand to testify my love to you and others here, that we may be united in truth and honesty.

On this day I choose you my beautiful groom/Bride to be my husband/wife. To laugh with you and care for you. To share laughter and sleep in your embrace. To reflect the love in your heart. To lift you up above all others. And to be the ember that burns brightly in your heart.

Groom/Bride: Before all here and powers not seen, I [groom/Bride's name], choose you [groom/Bride's name] to be my husband/wife, to have and hold from this day forward. To be at your side in time of distress and time of plenty, and to love and care for you always.

Groom/Bride: My promise to you today, is to laugh in time of trouble, to honor you always, and to care for you in sickness and health. Therefore, I take you to be my husband/wife, Name.

Groom/Bride: Repeat after me. I promise to be your best friend and companion on the road of life. I will help you fulfill your dreams, and be sensitive to the cares of your heart. I will cherish you always in this life, and until we meet again in heaven. I take you as my husband/wife,

Name.

Groom/Bride: In the presence of God and before these witness I [groom/Bride's name], take you, [groom/Bride's name] to be my husband/wife. To have and to hold from this day forward, I will cherish the memories of our past and protection of our future. I will honor and trust you in good times and bad. As I take your hand, so take my heart, keep and seal it for all eternity.

Groom/Bride: My beloved on this day I take your hand in marriage, sealed before God and all those gathered here. Today I promise to share my life with you, to listen, to honor and to trust you. I promise on this day to be yours, without thought of others or distractions. I take you as my husband/wife on this very special day.

Groom/Bride: I [groom/Bride's name], take you [groom/Bride's name], to be my cherished husband/wife. To laugh with you and serve you with my strength, love, and heart. To hold you tight in time of night, and let you soar to new heights. To stand by you near your side and care for you until I die, I will always love you.

Groom/Bride: I will be faithful to you as long as I live, I take you as my husband/wife from this day forward. I will care for you and love throughout this life and the life to come. My heart is in a sea of joy, and my eyes behold beauty beyond compare. I am thankful that God in heaven made you just for me.

Groom/Bride: Before these witnesses I vow to care for you and love you as long as I have breath. I take you with joy and happiness this day. I will help you overcome the hurdles in your life and respect your choices. Today I have found my perfect partner. I accept your faults and strengths, from this day forward. This is my solemn vow.

Groom/Bride: Today I give thanks to God for finding you. I promise to love you without reservation and support your dreams. I hope to share your ups and downs. To follow the path laid before by God with you by my side. I hope the miracle of today will repeat itself every day I spend with you. I will be faithful to you as long as we both shall live.

Groom/Bride: I pledge my love to you today in front of our friends and families. I will honor and cherish you as long as we live. I want you to be my companion throughout the journey of life. Marry me today, and I will be the happiest husband/wife in the world.

Groom: [Bride's name], you are my dream come true. I am so excited to be standing with you here today. You are precious to me, and I plan to cherish you forever. I promise today and for all of our tomorrows to be the best husband that I can be. To take care of you in times of sickness and in health, to be your support system during the good and the bad that we know we will face in this lifetime. I give you my love and faithfulness from this day on.

Bride: [groom's name], I am yours. To be here with you on our wedding day is my dream come true. I also promise to take care of you in sickness and during the bad times we may face, and I pledge to be a joy in your life and cheer you on during your struggles. I look forward to the good times we will share in the future as I looked forward to today. I give you my love and faithfulness from this day on.

Groom: You fill me with a sense of peace. I take comfort from you becoming my wife. I know that you will support me and take care of me during any time of need or want. I pledge to do the same for you as your loving, faithful husband.

Bride: You fill me with a sense of peace. I take comfort from you becoming my husband. I know that you will support me and take care of me during any time of need or want. I pledge to do the same for you as your loving, faithful wife.

Groom/Bride: On this day, I vow to be worthy of your trust and love. I vow to keep the door of my heart open unto you forever. I vow to love you with an on-going friendship and loyalty as never before. I vow to walk with you on the road of life. I vow to shelter your plans for the future and cares of this world within my heart. From this day forth and before everyone gathered here, I vow to love you without reservation for all eternity.

Groom/Bride: [groom/Bride's name], I take you to be my lawfully wedded husband/wife. Before these witnesses I vow to love you and care for you as long as we both shall live. I choose you as the love of my life with whom I will spend all the days of my life.

Groom/Bride: This afternoon before God and all those gathered here I pledge my love to you. May you and everyone gathered here today, know that I am without a doubt totally in love with you. I will care for you in moments of trial and tribulation, however I will not be deterred. Where you will go, there I will go. I promise by all that we hold sacred in front of this assembly.

Groom/Bride: I am secure in the knowledge and power of your words that you love me. I reflect that love back to you with every ounce of my soul. I shall learn to love you deeper

each day. I will be the wind beneath your wings and air filling your life. I will travel with you through all of life's journeys. I will make you my priority in life after God. I take you to be my husband/wife.

One. When Love Beckons

Minister:

We are gathered here today to witness the coming together of two people, _____ and _____, whose hearts and spirits are entwined as one. They now desire to profess before the entire world their intention henceforth to walk the road of life together.

To these two young people, this marriage signifies the birth of a new spirit, a spirit which is a part of each of us, yet not of any one of us alone. This "birth of spirit" reminds us of spring, the season when all life is reborn and looms again. It is appropriate, therefore, that this wedding of _____ and _____ be in the spring, and that it be under the open sky, where we are close to the earth and to the unity of life, the totality of living things of which we are part.

The beliefs and thoughts about love which motivate these two people are perhaps best expressed in the words of poet Kahlil Gibran:

"You were born to be together, and together you shall be forevermore.
You shall be together when the wings of death scatter your days.
Ay, you shall be together even in your silent memory.
But let there be spaces in your togetherness,

And let the winds of the heaven dance between you.
Love one another, but make not a bondage of love.
Let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of your souls.
Fill each other's cup, but drink not from one cup.
Give one another of your bread, but eat not of the same loaf.
Sing and dance together and be joyous, but let each of you be alone,
Even as the strings of a lute are alone, though they quiver with the same music.
Give your hearts, but not into each other's keeping,
For only the hand of life can contain your hearts.
And stand together, yet not too near together,
For the pillars of the temple stand apart,
And the oak tree and the cypress grow not in shadow."

Minister to Bride:

Do you _____, knowing this man's love for you and returning it, realizing his strengths and learning from them, recognizing his weaknesses and helping him to overcome them, take _____ to be your lawfully wedded husband?

Bride:
I do.

Minister:
Place the ring on his finger.

Minister to Groom:

Do you _____, knowing this woman's love for you and returning it, realizing her strengths and learning from them, recognizing her weaknesses and helping her to overcome them, take _____ to be your lawfully wedded wife?

Groom:
I do.

Minister:
Place the ring on her finger. Let these rings serve as locks—not binding you together—but as keys, unlocking the secrets of your hearts for each other to know, and thus bringing you closer together forever.

And now _____ and _____, seeking the fulfillment of love and marriage, find again that the poet Gibran speaks for them:

"Love has no other desire but to fulfill itself.
To wake at dawn with a winged heart and give thanks to another day of loving.
To rest at the noon hour and meditate love's ecstasy;
To return home eventide with gratitude, and then sleep with a prayer
For the beloved in your heart and a song of praise upon your lips."

I now pronounce you husband and wife.

Two. May This Day Shine Eternally

Minister:

_____ and _____, in presenting yourselves here today to be joined in marriage, you perform an act of faith. This faith can grow and develop and last, but only if you both decide to make it so. A lasting and growing love is not guaranteed by any ritual.

If you would have the foundation of your marriage be the devotion you have for one another, not just at this moment, but for all the days to come, then treasure the hopes and dreams that you bring here today. Establish that your love will never be blotted out by the common nor obscured by the ordinary in life. Faults will surface where now you find comfort, and admiration can be shattered by the routine of daily life.

Dedication, love, and joy can grow only when you nourish them together. Stand fast in that hope and confidence, having faith in your shared destiny just as strongly as you have faith in yourselves and in one another today. Only with this spirit can you forge a union that will strengthen and endure all the days of your lives.

Groom:

I, _____, take you, _____, as my friend and love, beside me and apart from me, in laughter and in tears, in conflict and tranquility, asking that you be no other than yourself, loving what I know of you, trusting what I do not know yet, in all the ways that life may find us.

The Groom places the Bride's ring on her finger and says: _____, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you, in the name of God.

Bride:

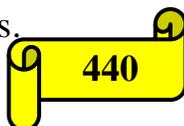
I, _____, take you, _____, as my friend and love, beside me and apart from me, in laughter and in tears, in conflict and tranquility, asking that you be no other than yourself, loving what I know of you, trusting what I do not know yet, in all the ways that life may find us.

The Bride places the Groom's ring on his finger and says: _____, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you, in the name of God.

Minister:

With this statement made of love and trust, which we have just heard, I now wish you to greet _____ and _____ as husband and wife.

May this day shine eternally in your lives.



May it add brilliance to every achievement and cast a divine light over any misfortune.

May you care for each other in all sadness.

May you give cheer to each other.

May you give vitality to each other in all undertakings.

May all that is virtuous, beautiful and honest, remain with you always.

THE MARRIAGE CONTINUES



Purpose Of The Exchange Of Rings

The purpose of the Exchange of Rings prepares the bride and groom by explaining the symbolism & meaning behind the giving of the rings.

Purpose Of The Exchange Of Rings 1 of 34

The ring is an ancient symbol, so perfect and simple.

It has no beginning and has no end.

It is round like the sun, like the moon, like the eye, like arms that embrace.

It is a circle; for love that is given comes back round again.

Your rings are precious because you wear them with love.

They symbolize your commitment in marriage.

They remind you of who you are, where you've been, and where you're going.

As you wear them through time, they will reflect not only who you are as individuals, but also who you are a couple.

Purpose Of the Exchange of Rings 2

These rings are made of precious metals; purified by the heat of many fires.

They are a symbol of the wealth that resides inside each of you and the purity of your love for one another.

Purpose Of the Exchange of Rings 3

Though we have heard the vows, which have been shared by BRIDE and GROOM, words, once spoken, are carried away on the wind.

Therefore, the wedding ring is a visible symbol of the promises that have been made.

Purpose Of the Exchange of Rings 4

The circle has frequently been used to symbolize eternity.

The ring, like the circle, is a reminder of the perfection and endurance of BRIDE and GROOM's commitment to and love for one another.



Purpose Of the Exchange of Rings 5

These rings represent the vows and promises you've willingly exchanged.

They reflect the commitment those words inspire and all your hopes and dreams for the future.

Purpose Of the Exchange of Rings 6

Let us now have the rings brought forward and presented by the ring-bearer.

Purpose Of the Exchange of Rings 7

May these rings symbolize your inherent wholeness and unity with one another, giving you the strength to happily honor your commitments to each other.

May they remind you that marriage is not a destination but a journey, with no beginning and no end, just a moment to moment opportunity to love and be loved to the best of your ability.

Purpose Of the Exchange of Rings 8

Throughout human tradition, when you make a pledge, it has been deemed good to have a token to remind you of that pledge.

For this purpose you have chosen rings.

They are appropriate to the task because they are circles never ending, like the promises you make to each other today.

And they are made of precious metal, never to be tarnished, like the love you have expressed before me and these witnesses.

Please take these rings and honor each other in their giving.

Purpose Of the Exchange of Rings 9

A circle is the ancient symbol of wholeness and peace.

It also represents the boundaries beyond which the special ness of a particular relationship does not extend.

In the form of a ring the circle is the accepted token of a marriage covenant.

As these rings are fashioned from one of the earth's most precious materials, so may your love, nourished and sustained by the love of God, be the most precious and durable of the values you share.

In giving and receiving these rings, you again acknowledge that your lives remain joined in one unbroken circle, wherever you go, you will always return to your shared life together.

Purpose Of the Exchange of Rings 10

The wedding ring is a symbol of married love, the precious metals show that your love is your most precious possession, and the unending circle symbolizes that your love may never cease.

Purpose Of the Exchange of Rings 11

Marriage is a state in which two people come together and create a union that is greater than the sum of its parts.

It is difficult to express in words the profound relationship that is love.

Since the beginning of time, the ring has been an emblem of the sincerity and permanence of a couple's love for one another and regard for their marriage.

As the circle can begin anew at any point, so a good marriage can pick any point to renew itself.

These rings are symbols of your eternal love.

Purpose Of the Exchange of Rings 12

The ring is a symbol of the unbroken circle of love.

Love freely given has no beginning and no end, no giver and no receiver for each is the giver and each is the receiver.

May these rings always remind you of the vows you have taken.

Purpose Of the Exchange of Rings 13

I hold in my hand two beautiful rings, symbolic of a binding contract, to be given and received as bonds of never-ending love and devoted friendship, circles of life and circles of love.

May these rings be blessed as the symbol of this affectionate unity.

Purpose Of the Exchange of Rings 14

Bless, O Lord, these rings to be signs of the vows by which this man and this woman have bound themselves to each other. Amen.

Purpose Of the Exchange of Rings 15

What token of your devotion do you offer your beloved?

Purpose Of the Exchange of Rings 16

May the Lord bless these rings which you give as your sign of love and devotion. Amen.

Purpose Of the Exchange of Rings 17

Now with these rings, symbolizing the continuous circle of unity and love with the marriage relationship, and ultimately symbolizing the unity and wholeness within the Self, BRIDE and GROOM will finalize their vows.

Purpose Of the Exchange of Rings 18

From the earliest of times, the circle has been a symbol of completeness, a symbol of committed love. An unbroken and never-ending circle symbolized a commitment of love that is also never ending.

As often as either of you looks at this symbol, I hope that you will be reminded of these commitments to one another, which you make today.

May these rings be blessed by God as the changeless symbol of this affectionate unity.

Purpose Of the Exchange of Rings 19

The giving and receiving of rings is the most important part of a marriage ceremony, because the rings are made in the symbol of that which is eternal.

There is no beginning and no end, and as you place these symbols on each other's finger, it signifies that there shall be no end to your marriage, and no end to the happiness that you will both share together.

But let me remind you that these are also the special symbols you will wear before the world, certainly when you go back to your family, and friends, and co-workers. In

fact, you will notice the response when you walk away from this beautiful place tonight.

For when people look at you, they will look at your hand and notice the ring on your finger.

They will know that you belong to someone special and that someone special belongs to you.

Every day for the rest of your lives, every time you wash your hands or reach out to touch each other, these rings will be there to remind you of the great love that you share and of the wonder that the person standing in front of you loves you as much as you love them.

So when you place these rings upon each other's fingers, wear them with love and with honor.

Purpose Of the Exchange of Rings 20

Wedding rings are an outward and visible sign of an inward spiritual grace and the unbroken circle of love, signifying to all the union of this man and this woman in marriage.

Purpose Of the Exchange of Rings 21

These rings mark a new beginning in your journey together, filled with wonder, surprise, laughter, tears, celebration, grief and joy.

Let us pray: Bless, O god, the giving of these rings, that they who wear them may live in your peace and realized potential.

Amen.

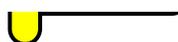
Purpose Of the Exchange of Rings 22

These rings are made of precious metal, but they are made more precious by your wearing them, for they will adorn your loving hands.

May they be a symbol of your eternal love for one another.

As you wear them, may they be a constant reminder to you of one another, and of the deep bond of faith, trust and love which they represent.

Purpose Of the Exchange of Rings 23



Rings are very large in their significance.

They are made of precious metal, which symbolizes that your love is the most precious element in each other's life.

The ring has no beginning and no ending, which symbolizes that the love between the two of you will never cease.

Purpose Of the Exchange of Rings 24

May I have the rings.

Let us pray.

Bless, O Lord, the giving and receiving of these rings.

May BRIDE and GROOM abide in Thy peace and grow in their knowledge of Your presence through their loving union.

May the seamless circle of these rings become the symbol of their endless love and serve to remind them of the holy covenant they have entered into today to be faithful, loving, and kind to each other.

Dear God, may they live in Your grace and be forever true to this union. Amen.”

Purpose Of the Exchange of Rings 25

The ring is the symbol of the commitment which binds these two together.

There are two rings because there are two people, each to make a contribution to the life of the other, and to their new life together.

Let us pray:

Bless, O Lord, the giving of these rings, that they who wear them may abide together in your peace and grow in one another's eyes.

Purpose Of the Exchange of Rings 26

Father, bless these rings which BRIDE and GROOM have set apart to be visible signs of the inward and spiritual bond which unites their hearts.

As they give and receive these rings, may they testify to the world of the covenant made between them here.”



Purpose Of the Exchange of Rings 27

The circle has long been a symbol of God.

Without beginning or end and with no point of weakness, the circle is a reminder of the eternal quality of God and of unending strength.

Let the seamless circle of these rings become the symbol of your endless love.

Your wedding rings are most special because they say that even in your uniqueness you have chosen to be bonded, to allow the presence of another human being to enhance who you are.

Purpose Of the Exchange of Rings 28

At this time will you take out the rings you have for each other.

As you wear these things, they will speak to the community you live in, the people you work with, and strangers you run across.

The ring is a symbol which proclaims to the world that you share a love with another and that you are deeply connect in the bond of marriage.

We know what it means when other people see your wedding ring, but before you exchange your rings, I want you to listen to what these ring will speak to you.

As you go from this celebration with the ring on your finger, allow it to remind you of this day.

Allow it to awaken the deep passionate feelings that are stirring in your hearts at this moment.

Let it remind you of the love that you have just professed with your vows.

But also allow it to speak of more than just symbolism.

Your ring should not only remind you of what you already feel.

Hear the ring's plea for action.

Hear how it whispers to once again profess your love to your spouse.

Listen to its call to live out your love by doing romantic acts, thoughtful gestures, and caring deeds.



Let it be a reminder that love needs to be offered and not just felt.

When others see the ring they will know you're married. When you see your ring and when you feel it on your hand, you should be reminded that your love needs to be displayed and conveyed in action.

Purpose Of the Exchange of Rings 29

At this time will you take out the rings you have for each other.

BRIDE and GROOM, you have just made promises love and devotion to each other.

These rings are symbols of the those vows you have just spoken.

Words are intangible and difficult to hold onto, so the rings become a vessel which will hold the words you have given to one another.

The words of “loving and cherishing,” “for better and for worse,” “honor and respecting,” are now encased in the ring. It is a physical way to hold on to the promises made to you.

When you first put on a new ring it feels unnatural. You feel the weight and you hear it clank against objects.

It's a foreign object on your hand.

But then there is a shift that happens.

You become comfortable with the ring. It begins to mold your finger and feel comfortable until the day it just becomes a part of your hand.

The ring is no longer a piece of jewelry that you wear.

It becomes an extension of your hand.

So this ring that embodies your vows...your promises eventually becomes an extension of your hand. In other words, you become your ring...you become your vows.

At first, the ring is a symbol of the vows you have made...it contains them, but during that change when the ring begins to mold to your finger, you become the ring, because you begin to embody the vows.

Instead of the ring being only a symbol of the promise “to love and cherish” you become the love and you display the action of one who cherishes.

You are no longer holding onto promises of sticking around through better and worse, but you begin to live it out...You hold on...you work through.

You take on the process of honoring and respecting that you said you would.

As you place the rings on each other’s finger, the ring is a symbol, a promise, that one day...many days...many years... you will fulfill.

Purpose Of the Exchange of Rings 30

At this time will you take out the rings you have for each other, for these rings will be a visible sign of the vows you have made.

The hand you place this ring on will not stay the same.

In time, wrinkles will form, calluses will come and go, and different scars may appear.

Not only will each of you change physically over time, but internally you will change as well. Your ideals, values, hopes may evolve.

Things that are important to you today may not be the same over time.

In 10, 20, 30 years you will change, but your rings, which represent your vows, will be constant.

The promises to love, cherish, and respect one another no matter what life brings or what paths you take will always be worn around your finger.

Your love will be constant as you walk together into the unknown.

Your rings and your vows will cling to your finger and hold you together no matter what may come

Purpose Of the Exchange of Rings 31

The wedding ring is a symbol of eternity.

It is an outward sign of an inward and spiritual bond which unites two hearts in endless love.

And now as a token of your love and of your deep desire to be forever united in heart and soul, you GROOM, may place a ring on the finger of your bride

Purpose Of the Exchange of Rings 32

The wedding ring is justly regarded as a fitting emblem of the purity and perpetuity of marriage.

It is symbolic of the circle of eternity, as it is so fashioned as to have neither beginning nor end; while gold is so incorruptible that it cannot be tarnished by use or by time.

So may this marriage, at this time celebrated, be incorruptible in its purity and more lasting than time itself.

Purpose Of the Exchange of Rings 33

You've both chosen to wear rings as a reminder of these promises.

People often say wedding bands are a perfect circle, with no beginning and no end.

But these rings did have a beginning. The stones were formed a long time ago deep with the earth.

Eventually, a series of lucky events caused them to rise to the surface, where someone dug them up.

Metal was then liquefied in a furnace at a thousand degrees — molded, cooled, and painstakingly polished.

Something beautiful was made from raw elements.

Love is like that.

It comes from humble beginnings, and through a combination of serendipity and effort, imperfect beings shape it into something extraordinary.

It's the process of making something beautiful where there was once nothing at all.

As you look at these rings over the years, I hope you remember that.

You've created something invaluable, and just as I know you'll protect these rings, I'm confident you'll protect the commitments you've made to one other today.

Purpose Of the Exchange of Rings 34 of 34



And so we come Bride and Groom, to the presentation of rings by which you symbolize and bind your love.

The circle has long been a symbol of spirit and the power of God.

The sky and the earth are round.

The wind in its greatest power whirls.

The sun and moon, both round, come forth and go down again in a circle.

Even the seasons form a great circle in their changing and always come back again to where they were.

Without beginning or end and with no point of weakness, the circle is a reminder of the eternal quality of God and of unending strength.

Let the seamless circle of these rings become the symbol of your endless love and unending faithfulness.

Your wedding rings are most special because they say that even in your uniqueness you have chosen to be bonded, to allow the presence of another human being to enhance who you are.

Your rings carry a potent double message:

We are individuals and yet we belong; we are not alone.

As you wear them through time, they will reflect not only who you are but also the glorious union that you are now creating.

God, bless these rings and the two who exchange them.

Fill them with your Holy Presence.

Keep them safe in the circle of your protection and love.

The Ring Ceremony

This is almost always follows immediately after the vows. It is, in fact, an extension of the exchange of vows.

Having this kind of love in your hearts, you have chosen to exchange rings as the sign and seal of the vows you are making today. (*Take the rings from the best man*).

While holding the rings say:

“Though small in size, these rings are very large in significance. Made of precious metal, they remind us that love is neither cheap nor common; indeed, love may cost us dearly.

Made in a circle, their design tells us that love must never come to an end, we must keep it continuous.

As you wear these rings, whether together or apart for a moment, may they be constant reminders of these glad promises that you are making today.”

In His infinite wisdom, the Great Architect of the Universe created the circle as a perfect form.

A shape which has no beginning and has no end.

In Geometry the circle is considered the universal shape of pure perfection, every point within the arch drawing strength from every other point.

It is appropriate then that the circle should be the symbol of your union, reminding you and all who view it that this is the symbol of two people who share a strong and perfect love and draw strength from one another”.

=====

To Groom: G_____ will you take your ring and place it upon B_____’s left hand, and repeat after me this promise: “I give you this ring as a symbol of my Love, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you; in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

To Bride: B_____ will you take your ring and place it upon G_____’s left hand, and repeat after me this promise:”I give you this ring as a symbol of my Love, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you; in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

To Groom: **Please repeat after me.** "I G_____ take you B _____ to be my Wife.

You are my life, my love, my best friend. And with this ring I promise to be truthful and honest with you, and listen to the truth, and honesty that comes from you. I will trust you and be worthy of your trust I will love you fully and openly to let myself be loved by you in the same way for all the days of my life"

To Bride: **Please repeat after me.** "I B_____ take you G _____ to be my Husband. You are my life, my love, my best friend. And with this ring I promise to be truthful, and honest with you, and listen to the truth, and honesty that comes from you. I will trust you and be worthy of your trust I will love you fully and openly to let myself be loved by you in the same way for all the days of my life"

=====

"The ring, a circle, is one of nature's simplest forms. The arc of the rainbow, the halo of the moon and the smallest of raindrops simulate the circle. A circle is the symbol of the sun and the earth and the universe. It is a symbol of perfection and of peace. This is why the wedding band, the symbol of eternity, with no end and no beginning has withstood the test of time. The ring finger of the left hand, the side of the body that holds the heart, has been used for the wedding band because for centuries people believed that there was a vein that ran directly from that finger to the heart. In these rings is the symbol of unity, in which your lives are now joined, so that wherever you go, you will always return to one another and to your togetherness. As the circle turns again unto itself, so does marriage turn unto itself for its refreshment and renewal. May these rings remind you always of the vows you have taken here today."

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Please note: There is so much to learn about the wedding rings. I have about 30 additional chapters about the facts, history and quotations about engagement and wedding rings. They can be found in Manual 2 of 14, called: "Prior To The Wedding".

❧ Blessing Of The Rings ❧

Blessings

The blessing of the rings is an important part of the wedding ritual in which the visible symbol of the pledges made between the bride and the groom are presented and the symbolism explained. The blessing of the rings can invoke a specific deity and religious tradition or can be entirely secular and humanist with the blessing flowing forth from the couple and their guests. These examples represent a variety of ways in which the rings can be blessed.

1. Marriage is a state in which two people come together and create a union greater than the sum of its parts. It is difficult to express in words the profound relationship that is love. The ring has long been a symbol of the sincerity and permanence of a couple's love for one another and regard for their marriage. As the circle can begin anew at any point, so a good marriage can pick any point to renew itself. These rings are symbols of your eternal love.

2. As circles have no beginning and no end, rings have naturally come to symbolize eternal love within the union of mind, body, and spirit that constitutes the sanctity of marriage. They are freely offered as gifts of faith and hope as visible signs of the promises given this day. May these rings be blessed and hold the dreams ____ and ____ share for their union. May the shiny metal mirror the sacred vows made between them, now and forever.

3. Let us bless these rings. These circles, symbols that remind us of the sun that shines above us, the Earth holding the sand beneath our feet and the cycle of the tides before us that rise and fall against this beach. In this moment, bring blessings to these rings to be

symbols of unity, commitment and renewal. Grant that the love which _____ and _____ feel for each other this day reside always in their hearts.

4. _____ and _____'s rings are an external and visible sign of the internal and spiritual bond of love which unites their two hearts. May they serve as a seal of the vows _____ and _____ have made to one another. Bless these rings, symbols of eternity, beauty and strength. Bless the couple who give them and wear them--may they ever live in harmony, unity, love and happiness from this day forward.

5. Bless these rings, symbols of eternity and forgiveness. A reminder that love is never ending, but instead can be renewed at any time and place of our choosing. May these rings grace the loving hands of _____ and _____ with a joyful and nurturing presence, symbolic of the eternal love and faithfulness they pledge to one another.

6. Father, bless these rings which _____ and _____ have set apart to be visible signs of the inward and spiritual bond which unites their hearts. This circle will now seal the vows of their marriage and will symbolize the purity and endlessness of their love. As they give and receive these rings, may they testify to the world of the covenant made between them here.

7. Lord, please bless these rings that _____ and _____ are about to exchange. May these rings forever remind them of their covenant with one another, as well as the circle of love they have publicly created here today. May their compassion and kindness for one another always be like these rings, with no beginning and no end. May the precious metal remind them of their precious commitment, and if either begins to tarnish, may they joyfully undertake the sacred duty to make it shine brightly again. May their relationship always be like these rings, separate but close, simple but beautiful. May these rings always belong to their hands, and their love always belong in each other's hearts. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen .

8. Adonai, our God, ruler of the universe, we call for your blessing for these rings, both as symbols of love and union between (bride) and (groom), and as tokens of their hopes and dreams fulfilled in their commitment to each other this day and every day of the rest of their lives together. We ask that these rings hold and carry these dreams, remind them of the endless circle of their union to each other, and be a beautiful reflection of their sacred vows to each other, now and always.

9. Bless this precious circle of gold. Symbol of the sun and the earth and the universe, of wholeness, perfection, peace and love. Because this ring has no end or beginning, it signifies the continuation of true love. May these rings be a symbol of the promises you

have made to one another and a reminder of your mutual devotion—a symbol of love that is complete, beautiful, and endless.

10. The circle is a natural symbol of eternity as it has no beginning and no end. We place the ring on the left hand because it constitutes a direct path to the heart, a traditional metaphor for love and devotion. Its presence reminds us of the vows we have made and their relationship to the emotional seat of the heart. We ask that these rings that will forever grace the hands of (Bride) and (Groom's) be blessed. May they reside on the hands of the lover, the caregiver, the companion and the guide. May (Bride) and (Groom) wear these rings as a symbol of their unity.

11. Made from metals drawn from deep within the earth, may these rings remind you that your love, also, must be drawn from deep within you. Forged in heat and with great effort, may these rings remind you that your marriage is also crafted daily and tempered in the forge of daily giving and forgiving. Bright like the sun, may these rings remind you that your love is meant to illumine your lives. Round like arms that embrace, may these rings remind you that human love is a gift to this world.

12. The circle has long been a symbol of completeness, a symbol of committed love. It is a symbol of holiness and of perfection and of peace. From time immemorial, the circlet of metal has been an emblem of the sincerity and permanence of a couple's love and regard for one another and their union. As the precious metal turns again upon itself, so does a good marriage turn upon itself for its refreshment and renewal. May your rings be a reminder of the covenant you have made today.

Wooden Wedding Ring Blessing

This ring exchange includes a mix of some of the ring blessings above with the addition of some words to acknowledge the bride and groom's choice of wedding rings crafted out of wood.

As circles have no beginning and no end, rings have naturally come to symbolize eternal love within the union of mind, body and spirit that constitutes the sanctity of union between man and woman. _____ and _____ have chosen wooden rings as an outward sign of their internal commitment. The material used to make these rings had a previous noble life before its transformation to a new life of beauty reminding us that the gifts of nature and the creativity of humankind can come together in ways that ennoble us and honor our world. These rings are symbols that remind us of the sun that shines above us and the Earth beneath us. They are freely offered as gifts of faith and hope as visible signs of the promises given this day. In this moment, bring blessings to these rings to be symbols of unity, commitment and renewal.



Lord, bless and consecrate **Groom and Bride** in their love for each other.

May these rings be a symbol of true faith in each other and always remind them of their love.

In the name of the Father, The Son, and of the Holy Spirit, guardians of all that is seen and unseen, bless these rings and this couple who shall wear them.

Keep them safe through adversity forever supported by your eternal blessing.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.



5th Musical Rendition

Interlude: This song (or songs) are played at various points during the ceremony, such as when the couple is lighting the unity candle.

Closing/Second Prayer

The vows having been said and sealed with rings, and the union perhaps symbolized the lighting of candles and sharing in the Lords Supper, it is time to invoke God's blessing on the marriage.

A Marriage Prayer

(You may edit out any lines that do not apply to your situation)

Bless this marriage, O God, as ____ and ____ begin their journey down the road of life together. We don't know what lies ahead for the road turns and bends. But help them to make the best of whatever comes their way.

Help them to hug each other often, talk and laugh a lot. Help them to continue to enjoy each other as they did when they first met. Help them to realize that nothing nor no one is perfect and to look for the good in all things and all people including themselves. Help them to respect each other's likes and dislikes, opinion and beliefs, hopes and dreams and fears.

Help them to learn from each other and to help each other to grow mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

Help them to realize that there is design and purpose in their lives as in the world, and if they will hold onto each other, they will know that things have a way of working out for the good.

Help them to create for their children a peaceful, stable home of love as a foundation on which they can build their lives.

But most of all, dear God, help them to keep lit the torch of love' that they now share in their hearts so that by their loving example they may pass on the light of love to their children and to their children's children forever. Amen.

Short Version of Above

Bless this marriage, O God, as _____ and _____ continue their journey down the road of life together. We don't know what lies ahead for the road turns and bends. But help them to make the best of whatever comes their way.

Help them to realize that if they will hold onto each other, they will know that things have a way of working out for the good.

Help them to create for their children a peaceful, stable home of love as a foundation on which they can build their lives.

But most of all, dear God, help them to keep lit the torch of love that they now share in their hearts so that by their loving example they may pass on the light of love to their children and to their children's children forever. Amen.

Closing Prayers And Blessing

Selection #1

Father (Divine Spirit, Lord), our hearts are filled with great happiness. This is ____ and ____'s wedding day. They come before you, pledging their lives and their hearts to one another. Grant that they may be ever true and loving, living together in such a way as to never bring heartache into their marriage. Temper their hearts with kindness and help them to be sweethearts, helpmates, friend and guide, and together, may they meet the cares and problems of life more bravely. Let them remember the value of each other as individuals, and never take each other for granted. And as time takes away their youthful charm, may they find contentment in the greater joys of rich companionship. May their home truly be a place of love and harmony where your spirit is ever present. Bless their wedding day, we pray, and walk beside them, through all their life together. May their love continue through life and finally blend in the life eternal. Amen

Selection #2

Holy Father, Creator of the Universe, maker of man and woman in your likeness, source of blessing for married life, we humbly pray to you for _____ and _____ who today are united in this sacrament of marriage. May your fullest blessing come upon them so that they may together rejoice in Your gift of married love. ____ and ____, may you reach old age in the company of your friends, and come at last to the kingdom of heaven. Amen

Selection #3

Most gracious God, by the power of your Holy Spirit, pour out the abundance of your blessing upon ____, and ____. Defend them from every enemy. Lead them into all peace. Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts, a mantle about their shoulders, and a crown upon their foreheads. Bless them in their work and in their companionship; in their sleeping and in their waking; in their joys and in their sorrows; in their life and in their death.

Selection #4

Blessed by you, Life-Spirit of the universe, who makes a distinction between holy and not yet holy, between light and dark, between committed and uncommitted, between common goals and personal goals, between love and aloneness. Blessed by You who distinguishes, _____ and _____ begin their marriage tonight. Bless them in their work and in their companionship, in their sleeping and in their waking, in their joys and in their sorrows; in their lives and in their deaths. As they become bound more closely to each other, may they also be more surely themselves. Let their love for each other be a seal upon their

hearts and a sign of Your high love. In beauty, they walk, with beauty before them, with beauty behind them, they walk. With beauty below and above them, in the beauty about them they walk. It is finished in beauty. Amen

(excerpts from the Talmud and the Navaho hymn to the Thunderbird.)

Selection #5

(Here is one from a Lutheran Ceremony);

Let us pray.

Faithful Lord, we thank you for the love and joy Karen and Roy have found in each other. Pour down your grace that they may fulfill the vows they have made this day and reflect your steadfast love in their faithfulness to each other. May they continue to grow in wisdom, understanding, patience, respect, affection, and love toward you, toward each other, and toward the world. Use us to support them in their promises and life together. Grant that all married persons witnessing these vows may find their lives strengthened and their loyalties confirmed. Enrich all families making them a sign of the fulfillment of your perfect kingdom, where, with your Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, one God through all ages of ages. *Amen.*

***Pronouncement Of Marriage**

The minister declares the couple to be husband and wife.

I now pronounce you Husband and Wife.

Often the sobering warning of Jesus is added: "*What God has joined, let no man separate*".

Mark 10

⁹ Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

Reverend: *And now inasmuch as the two of you have consented to join together in marriage and have declared the same before witnesses and thereto have given and pledged your love and faithfulness each to the other, I pronounce you husband and wife.*

Note: Please remember that there is no such thing as a "Man and Wife". You are either already a "Man" and "Woman" or, "Husband" and "Wife". Do not interchange the wording. Plus, I cannot pronouns you as a "Man and Woman", since you both already are.

***You May Kiss Your Wife**

This should be done tastefully, in an embrace, and not in an embarrassing manner.

Mike and Mary; if so desire, you both may seal your marriage with a kiss.

Jeff and Lisa, would you like to seal your marriage with a kiss?

Mike, you may kiss your wife.

Joe and Sheree; you may embrace each other and receive a kiss.

When I state that you may kiss each other, I would hope that any married couples in the congregation would also embrace in a kiss.

Note: I will never state to “Kiss **“your”** Bride” It shows possessiveness, and it is not up to me to authorize anybody to kiss. It is authorized by the each of you.

Reverend: You both may seal this marriage with a kiss!

Reverend: Yea matey, you may steal a kiss.

Alternatives:

Reverend: Charlie, you may now kiss the beautiful Bride.

Reverend: Greg and Michelle, if warranted, and ready, you may give each other a kiss.

You both may seal your marriage with a kiss.

You may now kiss each other.

You both may gross out the audience with a smooch. Either that or get a room.

Introduction Of The New Couple

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my distinct privilege to present to you, Mr. and Mrs. _____ "Grooms First Name" and "Brides First Name" _____ "Last Name" _____.

Examples: "Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my privilege to present to you Mr. and Mrs. Jim and Linda Meyers".

"Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my distinct pleasure to present to you, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Livingston".

"Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my honor to present to you: Mr. and Mrs. Smith.

(Please let me know if you want anything else then what is stated above).

Note: The last name presented, should always be the one stated on the marriage license.

6th Musical Rendition During Recessional

Recessional: At the end of the ceremony, the Bride and groom kiss and walk up the aisle as the wedding party follows. The song should be joyful and celebratory.

The wedding party files out and usually establishes a receiving line to greet guests. The ushers then dismiss the crowd one row at a time. A song chosen by the couple is also played.

Recessional By The Wedding Party

1. Normally, you exit in the exact opposite that you entered. And sometimes it's not. Let me know exactly what you want.

The Wedding Couple
Best Man and Maid of Honor
Remainder of Bridal Party
Flower Girl and Ring Bearer
Officiate
Congregation

7th And Last Musical Rendition (Postlude)

Postlude: This ten- to twenty-minute period includes upbeat songs that are played as the guests leave the ceremony.

AFTER THE CEREMONY



Signing Of Documents

Usually done right after the Recessional and after pictures are being taken, the marriage license and certificate are signed. The license is given to the minister for deliverance to the County Recorder's Office, and the certificate is then given to the married couple. Also see the document called "License" at my web site at: www.whitters.org for further details on copies. (Also shown below in red). Below are some certificates you may be interested in. I make these from scratch, so they may not look exactly like these, but very similar. You and I may also create one together, the way you want it to look.

Please note: There cannot be any mistakes made on the Marriage License. No cross outs, no line outs, no scribbling. If the County Recorder's Office finds any, they may deny the License and you'll have to purchase a duplicate one, at a cost of approximately \$35.00.

Also please note: Please have the License with you at the wedding ceremony. The signing of these documents will be held immediately after the procession and greeting of the new couple. I do this at this time because all the appropriate people are present to sign at that time. Please do not ransom off the License in order for me to follow you someplace else to sign the documents. For courtesy, I may have other places to attend or go.

As stated above, the below is quoted off of my web page at: www.whitters.org.

"Unfortunately, I cannot provide you with a marriage application since this is actually a civil/governmental service. The couple must obtain their marriage application at the California County Records Office of their choice within ninety days of the date of the ceremony. Application fees are usually around \$65.00. The couple completes their application at the County Recorder's office. The County Recorder will then issue you a License to get married which is good for 90 days. Blood tests are no longer required.

In Sacramento County, call the County Recorder Office for appointments at (916) 874-6131, or just go to 600 8th St. downtown (8th Street is one way north).

I shall take care of the signing of the license by the Bride and groom's chosen witnesses right after the ceremony, often while photos are being taken. I will also have a professional keepsake Certificate of Marriage for the couple as well. If there is an additional Keepsake certificate given to the couple by the County Recorder, I will substitute that one for one of my own.

Reverend Whitters will give the professional keepsake certificate to one of the witnesses or other designated person as soon as it is signed after the ceremony. If asked to do so, I will also mail, or deliver, the signed marriage license to the Office of the County Recorder of the county in which the license was issued. Prior to mailing, I will make 3 copies of the

license. Two for your records and one my records. Please remember that there is an additional charge of about \$14.00 for a Certified Copy of the Marriage Certificate issued by the County.

You are the only one authorized to purchase a Marriage Certificate. By California state law, I am not an authorized receiver.

A certified copy of the marriage certificate may also be obtained after the original license is recorded by the County Recorder's office. This can usually be done while waiting. At the same time that the marriage license was obtained, the county also gives you cost information and a form to send in to receive this certified copy. It is best to do it in person. If you used mail or Fax, it must be Notarized prior to sending in. Again, it is best to receive 4 or more copies of the recorded Marriage Certificate. One for you to keep with your marriage package, one each for the parents, and keep one in a safe place for security. A safe deposit box or a home safe is great. You may also want one suitable for framing and hang it on a wall. Another one should be given to the minister for their records also. These are just suggestions.

Notes:

If you get them now, it might not cost you more in the future. Another suggestion is to have one laminated by one of the local office supply stores. It can also be reduced into a billfold size card.



Guest Book -
Wedding
Signature Scroll



Marriage
Certificate - Angel



Marriage
Certificate -
Angelic Bouquet



Marriage
Certificate -
Antebellum



Marriage
Certificate -
Beauty Rose



Marriage
Certificate -
Bride & Groom



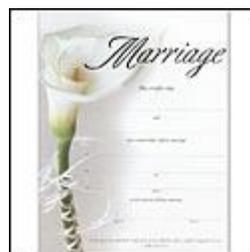
Marriage
Certificate -
Camelia



Marriage
Certificate -
Community



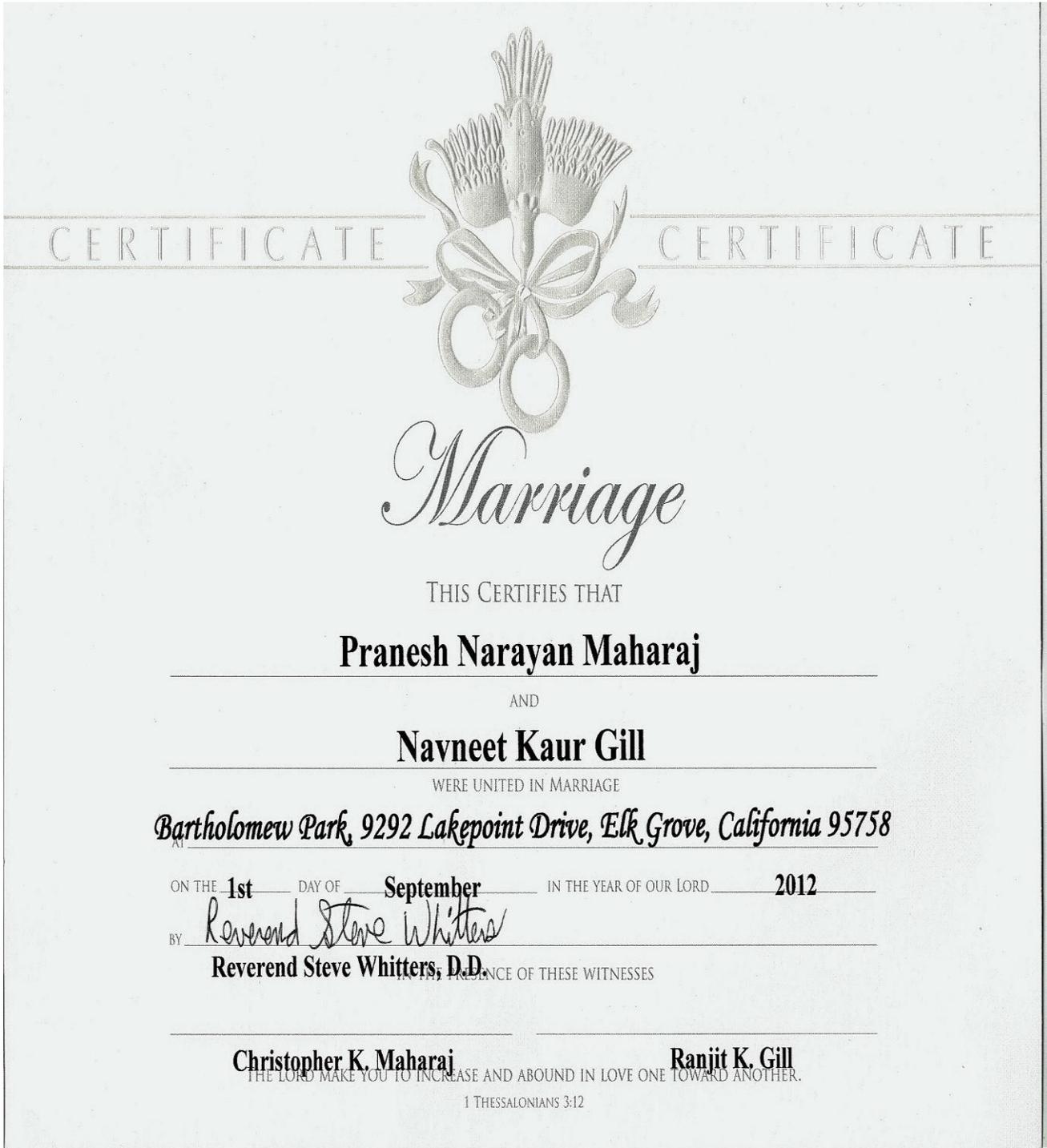
Marriage
Certificate -
Floral Heart



Marriage
Certificate - Lily

***Keepsake Wedding Certificate**

Now as for the Keepsake Wedding Certificate, I do provide a Keepsake, uncertified wedding certificate for you. It is shown below, and will be provided to the Best Man after the wedding.



The Blessing At The Reception

Notes Just For the Reverend: If your arm is twisted and you're asked, or mandated that you attend the reception, you may attend if time permits. You may also bless the food if asked. However, be on time, and at the correct place. Sometimes, it is best to follow another guest to the reception if you do not know where it is located. Just ask another driver if you may follow them, and to keep you in their sight.

Do not be the last one there. Never, ever sit with the wedding party. It is always best to mingle with the guests. You are not the Honored Guest; the Bride and Groom are. Do not stay any longer than after the first dance. This shows respect for the Bride and Groom, and their wedding.

Notes for the Wedding Couple: You'll find some of the Meal Blessings below:

1. Before we eat it is customary to say a prayer which can remind us of how interconnected we all are. We not only bless the food we are about to eat but we bless, and are thankful for those who grew or raised our food, those who processed it and brought it to market. We are grateful for those who prepare it for us and those who are serving it to us today (this evening). And may we be so grateful for being able to share this food on this wondrous occasion where Mike and Pam professed their love and two became one.
2. Bless our friends, bless our food. Come, Father, and sit with us. May our talks glow with peace, bring your love to surround us. Friendship and peace, may it bloom and grow forever. Thanks for friends, thanks for food, Thanks for freedom. Allow this meal to enrich us with wisdom and laughter all the rest of our days. Amen
3. Let us pray. Heavenly father, you have placed the earth and its fruit under our care so that by our efforts we may insure that all will share in the benefits of your creation. We ask that you bless this food and all those that are present here today, the families and friends and also all those who are were unable to attend today. We also ask your blessing on Steve and Christine who have come to you this day to unite themselves to you in love and sacrament, all this we ask in your love. Amen
4. We come to the table not merely to refresh our bodies but to renew our hearts. We are thankful for food in a world where many walk in hunger, for friends in a world where many walk alone, and for faith in a world where many walk in fear. O Lord, Thou Sustainer of our body, heart and soul, Bless all we receive. In thankfulness. Amen

5. Dear Almighty: Thank you for the food we share this afternoon in celebration of Casey's and Susan's marriage. We thank you for the love, guidance and support of all the important people in their lives, their parents, family and friends. We offer our gratitude for this joyful and abundant day. Please bless those that have worked hard to make this day a success for Casey and Susan. And, please bless this meal that we are about to share – Casey's and Susan's first meal together as a married couple.

6. Lord, behold our family here assembled. We thank you for this place in which we dwell, for the love that unites us, for the peace accorded us this day, for the hope with which we expect the morrow, for the health, the work, the food, and the bright skies that make our lives delightful; for our friends in all parts of the earth. Amen.

CHANGING OF LAST NAMES

**THE
LAST NAME
PROJECT**

Change Of Wife's Last Name

There is no single, or nice way to change the Bride's last name. There is not a single form to complete this task either. The authority to change your name is the Wedding Certificate from the County Recorder's Office of your County. This is the one with the raised seal on it. This seal is normally in the bottom right hand corner. Be advised that some of the below listed places will need to see your "Certified" Marriage Certificate with the raised seal on it. This is why I recommend that you pay for, and receive at least 2 copies of the Certified Marriage Certificate from the County Recorder's Office.

If you browse the Internet, there are sites that will offer you Name Change Kits for around \$25.00 to \$30.00. I would NOT recommend purchasing these kits. You will not have total control over the distribution. And for **free**, you can use other sites. With the recent rash of "Identity Thief" lately, I would want absolute total control over to who and where I give my personal information to. I do not recommend using these sites. However, if anything, I would try go to <http://www.namethatBride.com/forms.html> since they have a few **FREE** name change forms that you could Cut and Paste, or download to use. See below. Other pay sites are www.MissnowMrs.com and www.eznamechange.com, and at: www.bridekit.com (FREE).

Name That Bride
a free resource for helping brides change their names .com



[Free Online Forms](#)

[Order Print-Outs](#)

[Printable Checklist](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Last Name Debate](#)

Printable Name Change Forms

Before you begin, you will need to have a certified copy of your marriage certificate in your possession. Certified copies can be obtained for a fee from the county clerk where you applied for your marriage license, usually over the phone.

To view and print some of the following forms, you will need [Adobe Reader](#) (downloading the software is free).

Social Security Administration

Start the name-changing process with a new social security card, which will come in handy when you approach other agencies and organizations to change your name. Send in form [SS-5](#) and a certified copy of your marriage certificate. The service is free and your certified copy will be returned.

Internal Revenue Services



Frequently Asked Questions About Name Changes

Can I change my name before I get married?

Yes, you can. But you'll have to go through the court systems to legally change your name without a marriage certificate. Otherwise, you'll have to wait until you have your marriage certificate in hand, to change your name.

When can I start the name change process?

After you receive your Certificate of Marriage. Again, the document that authorizes your name change is your Marriage Certificate from the Recorder's Office.

I am getting married in a couple months, we are going to honeymoon out of the country, do I need to change my passport?

It would be better until you get back from your honeymoon to change your passport. Use your maiden name when traveling on your honeymoon so all your I.D. match. Make sure your flight reservations are in your maiden name. You can change your passport later at any U.S. Post Office. In some cases the State Department can take up to 3 months to issue new passports.

What if I want to hyphen my maiden and married name, do I still need to make a name change?

Yes, even if you are hyphenating your maiden with your married name you must notify the appropriate government agencies and your personal records to effectively change your name.

What record do I change first?

My recommendation is to start with your social security record, DMV and your Banking records.

Can I change my name by mail?

Most all records can be changed through the mail. The record you must make by a personal appearance for will be your State Driver License or State Identification Card and the Social Security Office.

Do I have to change my name on everything?

Our recommendation is that you make a complete and comprehensive name change, the reason being, there can be considerable confusion if you do not.

***Listing Of People, Places, And Things That You Might Want To Notify Or Change**

By: Reverend Steve Whitters

Updated: 1 January 2017

- Address Labels**
- Accountants**
- Alarm System Providers (ADT, Bay Area)**
- Alumni Association**
- Attorneys (Lawyers/Counselors/Judges) - (To Update Legal Documents)**
- Automobile Dealership - Service**
- Banks and other Financial Institutions: (Checking, Loan, Saving, IRA, Locked Boxes)**
- Barbers/Hair Salons/Manicurists/Pedicurists**
- Bars/Pubs/Taverns/Watering Holes**
- Beneficiaries**
- Benefits and Pension Administrator**
- Book and Music Clubs**
- Business Cards**
- Business Stationary**
- Cable Companies (AT&T, Comcast, SBCglobal)**
- Car Dealers (Ford, Cadillac, Buick, Chevy, Toyota, Nissan, etc.)**
- Car Registration**
- Cellular Phone and LAN (Local Area Network) Accounts (Verizon, AT&T, US Cellular, T-Mobile, Sprint, Cricket Wireless. Etc.)**
- Cemetery (Plot Recognition)**
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA)**
- Charities**
- Checking Account**
- Children's School Record (Emergency Cards)**
- Church Records and Officials**
- Club Memberships and Organizations**
- Colleges, Sororities**
- Computer Log-In Accounts, PasSwoRDs (Or At Least Consider Changing)**
- Contract Companies (i.e., Car Loans, Personal Loans)**
- Contractors (Lawn & Garden, House fixer-upper, etc.)**
- County Property Assessor's Office (Property Records)**
- Co-Workers**
- Corporate By-Laws**
- Corrections Officer (CO) of Any Jail/Prison/Incarceration Centers**

- Credit Bureau's
 - Equifax
 - Experian)
 - Innovis,
 - Transunion,
- Credit Cards/Debit Cards/Gas Cards (Change the name on your bank account(s) and request new debit and credit cards)
- Creditors (Car Payment, Sears, JC Penny's, Ross, Victoria Secrets, Etc.)
- Dentists
- Department of Human Services/SSI/Food Stamps
- Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV (Driver's License & Vehicle Title))
- Department Stores (Macys, Sears, JC Penny, Nordstrom, TJMax, Sax 5th Avenue, Burlington Coat Factory)
- Discount, Courtesy, and Frequent-Flyer Cards
- Discount Warehouses (Sam's, Costco, Ashley Furniture, Beck Furniture, Etc.)
- Doctors, Physicians (Primary Care, HMO's, Heart, Cancer, Foot, OD, Diabetic, Ortho, Pediatrics, Etc.)
- Driver's License (DMV)
- Dry Cleaner
- Electric Company or Power Company
- E-Mail Address (if you use your Maiden Name or initials in it) (Any and all Professional & Personal E-Mail Accounts)
- Emergency Contact's (Update your emergency contacts on employment, medical, and other records to include your new spouse. This is also true with any children's records)
- Employee ID card or Security Entrance Badge
- Employee Records
- Employer (W4 forms, 401k, insurance, benefits, email, business cards, name plate, work website)
- Family, Friends And Even Your Enemies (Make the announcement to friends and family (Ideally to your in-laws first)), using stationery or thank-you cards with your new name printed on them, or order name-change cards designed for such an occasion. Inform your enemies to freak them out.
- Financial Planner
- Fitness Centers (24 Hour Fitness, Anytime Fitness)
- Frequent-flier programs
- Furniture Rentals (Rent-A-Center; Aaron's Rentals)
- Garbage Pick-up Company
- Public Gas Department
- Gossip Centers And Groups

- Gyms, Health Clubs and Physical Fitness Centers, YMCA/YWCA
- Hair Salons
- Health Professionals (Family Doctors, Demonologist, Entomologist, Mental Health Professionals, Chiropractors, Acupuncturists, Ophthalmologist)
- Home owner's association or management agency
- Hospital and Clinical Records
- Household security system or alarm company
- Human Resources at yours and his work
- Incarceration Facilities
- Identification Cards
- Immigration and Nationalization Office
- Incarceration Facilities (California Medical Facility (CMF), Prison/Jail, etc.)
- Insurance Policies (Auto, Health, Dental, Home, Life, Vision, Property, Apartment, Flood, etc.)
- Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Submit Form #8822.
- Internet sites that use Usernames and Passwords. Specifically, the ones that you use your maiden name in.
- Internet Service Providers
- Investment accounts, including IRAs, and 401ks if not through your employer
- IRA Accounts
- Jail Facilities
- Land-Lord, Rental Office, Mortgage Company
- Last Will and Testament - Don't have one? Get one! (You may want to change the beneficiary to your spouse at the same time).
- Leases (Furniture Rental, House Rental, Apartment Rentals, Garage or Space Rentals, Storage Lockers)
- Library (Library Card)
- Living Wills
- Loans
- Magazine Subscriptions (Readers Digest, Glamor, Golf, Car & Driver, etc.)
- Martial Art Institutes (Aikido, Judo, Karate, Tai Kwon Do, Kung Fu)
- Medical Centers (Sutter, Davis, Mercy)
- Medical Records
- Military Personnel (Active, Reserve and Retired) Must apply for and change their Official Records at their Administration Office and apply for Dependent Military ID Cards, Housing Allowance, Food Allowances, etc.
- Money Market Accounts (CDs, IRAs, and 401k's)
- Mortgage or Lease Holder

- Morticians, Funeral Homes, Burial Plot Care Takers**
- Name Plate, Desk Name Plate, Door Name Plate**
- Network Administrator at work**
- Notary Public (Are you a Notary Public? Don't forget to notify the State or you could risk losing your commission)**
- On-line Accounts: (eBay, Amazon, PayPal, Facebook)**
- Order Replacements for Checks**
- Parole Officer**
- Passport Office (Obtain and complete a Passport Amendment/Validation Application). Send this along with appropriate fees, your current passport(s), and Certified documentation of your name change (such as a certified copy of a Marriage certificate or court papers) to the nearest passport agency. (Normally any Post Office) Please remember that the State Department may take up to 3 months to return your new passport. Be forewarned and ready.**
- Passwords, Pass codes**
- Payroll Office**
- Pensions**
- Personal and professional websites- especially for freelancers**
- Pet Care/Pet Stores/Pet Veterinarian**
- PG&E**
- Pharmacist**
- Post Office And The Mail Man**
- Power of Attorney**
- Prisons**
- Probation Officer**
- Professional Licensing Boards (Nursing, Medical, State Bar, Contractors)**
- Prescription Departments (Walgreens, Wal-Mart, CVT, Grocery Stores)**
- Property Taxes**
- Property Titles**
- Public and Self-Storage Facilities**
- Realtors**
- Retirement Accounts**
- Safety Deposit Boxes**
- Salons**
- Satellite Companies (Direct TV, DISH Network, Sure West, AT&T)**
- Savings Accounts, money market accounts, and CDs**
- Schools, Universities, Colleges (if you are a student) to let them know your new name, and ask them to change it in their records. Also ask for a new Student ID card.**
- Security or Entrance Badges That Have Your Maiden Name On Them**
- Sewer Department**

- Social Media and Internet Sites**
 - Facebook
 - Twitter
 - Myspace
 - LinkedIn
 - Flickr
 - Pinterest
- SMUD**
- Social Security Administration - (SSA) - (MUST have original Wedding Certificate with you). Please see <http://www.ssa.gov/online/ss-5.pdf> or click on the hyperlink. Once in their office, be sure to sign in at the Kiosk. NOTE: **There are TWO offices you can go to: 40 Massie Ct, Sacramento, CA 95823-4301 which is one block North of Mack Road off of Stockton Blvd. The other office is on Folsom Blvd and Power Inn. Actually it's two blocks East from Power Inn on Folsom on the right hand side.****
- Sorority or Fraternity organizations**
- State Tax Board/Commission**
- Stationary and Letterheads**
- Stocks and Bonds**
- Storage Lockers and Garages (Public Storage, Extra Space Storage)**
- Stores that Use Discount Cards (Safeway, Office Depot, WinCo, Home Depot, Staples, Lowes)**
- Student Loans**
- Subscriptions (Magazines, Newspapers, Book, Music, etc.)**
- Supermarkets (Raley's, FoodCo, WinCo, Belair, (Store cards))**
- Tax Preparers (H&R Block, Individual CPA's, Individual Attorney's, Liberty, Jackson Hewlett)**
- Taxes (Federal, State, County, Property)**
- Telephone Companies (AT&T, Frontier, SureWest, Comcast) Also be sure to change both the White Pages and any Yellow Pages you have.**
- Television Subscription Companies**
- Trade Associations**
- Travel Agent**
- Unions and professional organizations, including State Bar and professional Licenses**
- Utility Companies**
- Vehicle Title and Registration from the DMV**
- Veterinarians**
- Veteran's Facilities (Hospital, Clinics, Patient Advocates, DAV, American Legion, VFW)**
- Video Stores (Netflix, Blockbuster)**

- Voice Mail
- Voter Registration (Department of Elections) Includes Change of Name, Name Hyphenation & Change of Marital Status Forms for State, Federal & Local Californian Elections
- W4 Form Change (Single to Married, Number of Deductions)
- Water Company
- White Pages (Phone Book)
- Wills and Trusts. If you've made a will or other estate planning document (like a living trust), it's best to replace it with a new document using your new name. Your beneficiaries won't lose their inheritances if you don't; but changing the document now will avoid confusion later. Finally, remember to change your name on other important legal papers - for example, Powers of Attorney, living wills, and contracts.
- Work Place/Job Supervisor Notification
- Yellow Pages (Phone Book)
- Yoga Instructor
- Your Boss
- Your Creator (Thanking him for his kind consideration for your marriage and future together)
- Your Enemies – All of Them!

Please Note:

If you have a person, place or thing that is NOT listed above; I would like to be notified of that object. If you would be so kind; please E-mail me the item(s) at whitters9570@yahoo.com. Your input will help future newlyweds. Thank-You very kindly!

Reverend Whitters

Debunking The Rice-Throwing Myth

(. . . It Really is Okay for the Birds)

Somehow an Urban Legend has been created that claims that rice is dangerous when ingested by birds. Proponents of this myth suggest throwing seeds as an alternative to rice. No doubt the birds will appreciate the seeds far better than the rice, but it will not harm them. An Urban Legend is a myth or story that is propagated and expanded upon because it is passed from person to person, via E-mail, or appears in a "recognized" media source. Along the way it gains credibility.

In researching this myth, several authoritative sources helped to debunk it. For those who are interested here are the sources . . .

This was the response to a 1996 Ann Landers column in which she "informed" readers about the danger rice poses to birds. The USA Rice Federation in Houston's message for advice columnist Ann Landers was -" straighten up and fly right when you talk about birds." In a column, Landers had warned readers that throwing rice at weddings is unhealthy for our feathered friends.

The Federation added "This silly myth pops up periodically, and it is absolutely unfounded . . . Many migrating ducks and geese depend on winter-flooded rice fields each year to fatten up and build strength for their return trek to northern nesting grounds. Uncooked, milled rice is no more harmful to birds than rice in the field." Another authority, the Curator of Ornithology at the University of California at Berkeley, agrees. Ned Johnson, a professor of biology at Berkeley who lectures frequently on the food and feeding of birds, added, "It's a myth. There is no reason why birds, including small songbirds, can't eat rice."

The National Wildlife Federation.

<http://www.nwf.org/rangerrick/1999/jun99/mythb.html>). The National Wildlife Federation presents this MYTHBUSTER. "You may have heard that, when birds eat rice thrown at a wedding, the rice swells so much inside their bellies that they pop. Sounds awful, doesn't it? But have you ever seen any exploding birds after a wedding? It never happens. In fact, birds are often big pests in rice fields. Some rice farmers may wish the pesky birds would explode, but they never do!"

At: <http://birds.cornell.edu/pfw/AboutBirdsandFeeding/FAQsBirdFeeding.htm> comments: "Lots of birds eat uncooked rice in the wild. Bobolinks, sometimes called 'rice birds,' are a good example. While rice is okay for birds, many wedding parties now throw bird seed instead."

So, throw rice if you're a traditionalist and substitute bubbles, bird seed or petals if you're not!

Before you throw anything, ask permission.

If you're interested; in my manual #14 of 16 (Documentation) there is a chapter called "Against The Grain" it also pertains to throwing rice.

***PRICE LIST AND QUESTIONNAIRE**

Wedding With A Blessing



Reverend Steve Whitters, D. Th.

Reverend Steve Whitters, D. Th.

5408 Fern Valley Way

Elk Grove, California 95757-3306

Cell Phone: (916) 214-3980

E-Mail: whitters9570@yahoo.com

URL #1: <http://Angelology.yolasite.com> (Study Of Angels)

URL #2: <http://Demonology.yolasite.com> (Study Of Fallen Angels)

URL #3: <http://Exorcism.yolasite.com> (Exorcisms)

URL #4: <http://Hand-fasting.yolasite.com> (Handfasting)

URL #5: <http://Heaven&Hell.yolasite.com> (Study After Life)

URL #6: <http://HouseBlessing.yolasite.com> (Home Blessings)

URL #7: <http://Incarcerations.yolasite.com> (Jail/Prison/CMF, etc.)

URL #8: <http://Internments.yolasite.com> (Funerals)

URL #9: <http://LGBTweddings.yolasite.com> (LGBT Site)

URL #10: <http://Pinoyweddings.yolasite.com> (Filipino Weddings)

URL #11: <http://Quinceanera.yolasite.com> (Quinceanera Site)

URL #12: <http://Revwhitters.yolasite.com> (Christian)

URL #13: <http://UnityCeremonies.yolasite.com> (Unity Ceremonies)

URL #14: <http://www.whitters.org> (Weddings)

URL #15: <http://Wiccanweddings.yolasite.com> (Wicca Weddings)

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/stevewhitters>

Gigmasters: <http://www.gigmasters.com/event-coordinator/steve-whitters>

Illuminati: Secret Member

Instagram: <http://www.instagram.com/whitters9570/?hl=en>

Linkedin: <http://www.linkedin.com/pub/reverend-steve-whitters/8/959/313/en>

Pinterest: <http://pinterest.com/swhitters1/whitters1>

Thumbtack: <http://www.thumbtack.com/WeddingsWithABlessing>

Tumblr: <http://www.tumblr.com/blog/whitters1> (Wedding Blog)

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/whitters4>

Price Listing

Weddings, Anniversaries And Commitment Ceremonies

(Simple Wedding): 10 - 15 Minutes Long, Which Includes All Of The Following:

Free First Meeting Consultation With The Couple (Approximately 1 Hour)

Free 2nd Meeting (Usually Short and Sweet, And If Needed)

Presentation Of The Bride

Angelology

Welcome

In Memory Of:

Opening Remarks

Declaration Of Support

Negative Questioning

Declaration Of Intent/Consent

Marriage Vows Exchanged (Either Personal Or Traditional)

Ring Exchange

Pronouncement Of Marriage

Couple's Kiss

Presentation Of Mr. And Mrs.

Signing Of The Marriage Documentation

Free Marriage Keepsake Certificate For The Bride & Groom

Free 500 Page Printed Wedding Manual

Free DVD Of 37,000 Pages Of Additional Wedding Material. 140 Total Manuals!

Free 5 Copies Of The Wedding Script (Reverend's Booklet) 1 For Each Parent, And 1 For You.

Free Certificate Of Appreciation To All Flower Girls; Ring Bearers; Readers, Coin & Bible Presenters.

\$175.00. Yes _____

(Average Wedding): 16 - 30 Minutes' Long

All The Above,

Plus Opening Prayer and 2 Scripture Readings

Short Pastors Sermon
One Unity Ceremony
Anointing Of The Couple With Either Holy Water Or Oils
Blessing Of The Bridal Ring Set

\$200.00. Yes _____

=====
(Full Wedding): 31 Minutes Or Longer.

All The Above Plus

Congregation Question
Gospel Readings
Reaffirmation Of Faith
Prayer For Bride And Groom
Blessing Of The Food At The Reception, If Requested
Ruth's Passage Read
Unlimited Unity Ceremonies Such As Coins, Communion, Lasso, Hand Blessing,
Sand Ceremony, Etc. (See Page 17 Below And Manuals 55 - 59 For All The Available
Unity Ceremonies – Over 300 different ones).

\$250.00.

Yes: _____

=====
Please Note: The following are about the only extra charges that you might incur
other than Comfort Items discussed in the next section.

Rehearsals Within Sacramento County = +\$50.00
Rehearsals for Out of Sacramento County = +\$75.00 (+\$75.00 Per County from
outside Sacramento)
Out of Sacramento County Weddings = +\$50.00
Use of 280 Amp PA System = +\$35.00 (Very Loud)!

Note: Delivering (and filing) of your documents to your County Recorder's Office, is
all that I can do. I can NOT get a copy of your Wedding Certificate as California Law
forbids it. If you want a "Certified Copy" of your marriage certificate, you must fill

out the application and submit it directly to your County Recorder's Office with a payment of \$16.00.

Please see the below URL.

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/birthdeathmar/Pages/AthorizedCopyvsInformationalCopy.aspx>

The actual PDF application form is available at the below listed URL:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/pubsforms/forms/CtrldForms/vs113a.pdf>

=====

Sample:

Simple Wedding	= \$175.00
Wedding In Solano County	= 50.00
Out of Sacramento County Rehearsal	= <u>\$75.00</u>
Total:	<u>\$300.00</u>

Comfort Items

Turtle Dove Releases. Releasing up to 24 Doves as an expression of Love, Devotion, Peace and Unity.

Pricing is based on contacting Whitebird Ceremonial Dove Releases. Anna's phone number is: (916) 443-2165 and her Web Address is:

<http://www.whitebird.com/index.php>.

Serving the Sacramento, California foothills towns of Auburn, Grass Valley, Lincoln, Roseville and the surrounding communities.

Yes: _____ No: _____

=====

Butterfly Releases. Pricing is based on contacting one of the nearby butterfly farms in either Woodland or El Dorado. Normal pricing is approximately \$100.00 per dozen butterflies. PRICES VARY depending on type of butterfly ordering, the season and availability. I have their complete address and phone numbers if you want to contact them. You can either pick them up, or have them delivered. This is an ohhhhhh, wowwww ceremony!

Yes: _____ No: _____

WHERE CAN I PURCHASE BUTTERFLIES

There are two places in which you, can get butterflies.

One is called: Utterback Farms, (530) 661-3009, Woodland, CA.

<http://www.utterbackfarms.com/>

The other place is called: Swallowtail Farms, 989 Governor Drive, #103, El Dorado, CA (916) 939-3752.

<http://www.swallowtailfarms.com/>

=====

One Long Stem Rose w/greens presented to each Mother.

Yes: _____ No: _____

\$20.00

House Blessing with Certificate.

Yes: _____ No: _____

\$50.00

Horse And Buggy/Carriages, etc.

Vintage Carriage Company

395 Hwy. 65, Ste. A,

Box 157

Lincoln, CA 95648

(800) 426-3321

www.vintagecarriage.com

OR AT:

Top Hand Ranch

P.O. Box 183

Elverta, CA 95626

Cell: (916) 496-0102

Home: (530) 677-2871

(916) 655-3444

Fax: (916) 655-1516

tophandranch@aol.com

Yes: _____ No: _____

Pricing is based on contacting one of the nearby Horse And Buggy Ranches in either Lincoln or Elverta.

Use This Price Sheet As A Guide

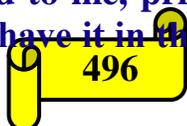
	{	Traditional	\$ _____
Wedding Type:		Semi-Formal	\$ _____
		Full Wedding	\$ _____
		Sacramento Rehearsal	\$ _____
		Out Of Sacramento County Wedding	\$ _____
		Out of Sacramento Rehearsal	\$ _____
		Use of Public Address System	\$ _____
		Comfort Items	\$ _____
		Unity Ceremonies	\$ _____
One Or The Other	{	Military Discount	- \$ _____
But NOT Both		Pinoy/Pinay Discount	- \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL: \$ _____

=====

Please note:

1. Any travel beyond the Sacramento County Line will be an additional \$50.00 due to time and travel.
2. Any rehearsals within Sacramento County will be an additional \$50.00 due to time and travel but is very highly suggested.
3. Any travel beyond the Sacramento County Line for a rehearsal will be \$75.00 due to time and travel, but is very highly suggested.
4. Payment is due immediately after the wedding ceremony. It is normally attended to by the Best Man. Please ensure that the Best Man, the two witnesses, the Flower Girls and the Ring Bearer are available after the wedding.
5. Unfortunately, because of previous scenarios, without payment, I may have to refuse to sign the marriage certificate until payment is received in full. The other option for me is to NOT submit your wedding license to the County Recorder's Office with extenuating circumstances.
6. **PLEASE DO NOT HOLD THE WEDDING LICENSE FOR RANSOM!** I require that the license be presented to me, prior to the start of the wedding! Do NOT tell me you don't have one; you have it in the car; or it's in your hotel room; or



that your parents have it! I've heard all those stories before, and it takes times away from my other weddings that I may have to attend to.

7. Please note that these are donations. I have receipts with me that I can issue to you for your tax records.

Military And Pinoy Discounts



Military Discount Coupon

If you or your fiancé are now in the Military Service (or ever have been), receive \$25.00 off any Wedding Ceremony performed in **2017 Or 2018.**

Weddings With A Blessing
Reverend Steve Whitters, D.D.
(916) 214-3980
E-Mail: whitters9570@yahoo.com

www.whitters.org

Due to the fact that I am a retired U.S. Marine with over 21 years of service; and that our military service personnel have been coming home from overseas since December 2011, I will give any couple who will be married in the calendar year 2015, a \$25.00 discount, if either of you have served, or still serving in any of the U.S. military services.

NOW: The above coupon is good for any member of your family who has ever been in the military service. Soooo, if your Uncle Ned was in Vietnam, I'll give you \$25.00 off your wedding ceremony.

If your Aunt Martha was a Nurse in WWII, I'll still give you \$25.00 off. If your Grandpa was in the Civil War at Bull Run, Gettysburg, or Antioch; I'll still honor this offer.

If your Great Grandpa served in the American Revolution and fought against the British at Fort McKinley or Bunker Hill, I'll donate the \$25.00 back to you.

I'll tell you what; if your Dad's dad wore a coon's skins hat and fought at the Alamo, I'll take \$25.00 off of your wedding.

You'll still get the \$25.00 off even if your Great, Great, Grandpa was thrown off the Mayflower, the Santa Maria or the Pina coming to America.

No proof required! Your say-so is good enough for me.

OTHER DISCOUNTS:

- 1. If you are a Pinoy/Pinay; my wife would kill me if I didn't give you a \$25.00 discount. Since she's from Bayombong (Very Northern Philippines), she demands Pinoy/Pinay discounts.**
- 2. If you refer a couple, and I conduct their wedding, you will be sent a check for \$25.00.**

Questionnaire To Be Filled Out

Please hand **PRINT** neatly or type it. Fill it out as much as possible. If you don't know an answer, please leave it blank for now.

1. Grooms Full Name: _____
(Please Include Full Middle Name)

Date Of Birth & Age On Wedding Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

E-mail Address: _____

Father Of The Groom: _____

Mother Of The Groom: _____

Parent's Phone Number: _____

2. Brides Full Name: _____
(Please Include Full Middle Name)

Date Of Birth & Age On Wedding Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

E-mail Address: _____

Father Of The Bride: _____

Mother Of The Bride: _____

Parent's Phone Number: _____

3. Day, Date And Time Of Wedding: _____
Also, if you know the specific day such as Sun, Mon., Tue., Wed., etc., please enter it.

4. Approximate Number Of Wedding Attendees? _____

5. Place Where Wedding Will Be Performed: _____

Address Of Wedding: _____

Wedding Place Phone Number(s): _____

6. Are There Any Gated Property Codes, Specific Directions Or Routes, Wedding Signs, Balloons, etc., That I Must Know Of?

7. Is The Wedding Ceremony Going To Be Conducted Indoors Or Outdoors?
(Please Circle One)

8. Do You Have A Contention Plan For Any Inconceivable Weather?

Yes: _____ No: _____

9. Do you know of Anything That Could Detract From The Ceremony? Traffic, Waterfalls, Trains, Airplanes, Construction, Road Repair, Volcano's, Any Loud Noises, Etc.?

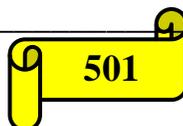
10. Is There Going To Be A Rehearsal? Yes: _____ No: _____

Date And Time Of rehearsal? _____

Location Of Rehearsal? (If Different Then Wedding Location) _____

Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____



11. Is The Reverend To Attend The Rehearsal? Yes: _____ No: _____

Please Note: There will be an extra charge of \$50.00 for Sacramento Rehearsals due to Reserving the date and time). Other Counties are \$75.00 per county from Sacramento.

12. Do Either Of You Have A Wedding Web Site That You're Using?

Yes: _____ No: _____

If you do, what is the URL (Web Address)?

13. Will You Be Having A DJ Or A Live Band At Your Wedding Ceremony?

Yes: _____ No: _____

14. Will The DJ Be Providing Me, You Or Us, With A Mic For The Wedding Ceremony?

No DJ: _____ Officiant: _____ Groom: _____ Bride: _____

15. Should The Officiant Bring His Own 20 Amp With 2 Lapel Mics With Him For An Additional \$35.00? Yes: _____ No: _____

16. Do you have an independent full service Wedding Planner or a Day of Coordinator? Yes: _____ No: _____

If yes, please include their name and contact information below.

Contact Name: _____.

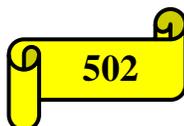
Contact Phone Number: _____.

Contact E-Mail Address (If Known): _____.

(Note: Most planners and Day Of Coordinators over-see your rehearsal, and many "venue provided" coordinators do so as well).

17. Does your venue include a coordinator with their services? Yes: _____ No: _____

If any of those options are available to you, you might want to forgo contracting me for your rehearsal, saving you \$\$\$).



18. Has The Marriage License Been Obtained And Available For Reviewing?

Yes: _____ No: _____

If No, When Are You Planning To Apply For The License? _____

19. Does Your Father, Mother, Both Parents/Brothers/Sisters/Uncles/ Son/Daughter Etc., Want To "Give The Bride Away"? Yes: _____ No: _____

If Yes, Please Provide Their Name And Their Relationship To You.

Full Name	Relationship
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

20. What Is The Appropriate Attire For The Reverend?

Dark Colored Suit & Tie: _____
(This Is The Normal Attire)

Cotton Tweed White Suit Coat, Pants And Tie (Shell White): _____

Cowboy Attire: _____ **Attire #1:** _____ **Attire #2:** _____

Vestments (Alb & Vestments/Stole): _____ **(For Christian Weddings)**

Black Shirt With White Collar, Black Pants: _____ **(Priest Uniform)**

Dressed Up As Your Wedding Theme As Discussed Below?

Yes: _____ No: _____

No Preference: _____

21. Do You Have A Theme Or Specific Colors For Your Wedding?

Yes: _____ No: _____

What is it? _____

(Or Please Circle Below)

1920's

1950's

1960's and Disco

Alice Cooper

Alice In Wonderland

Angel

Asian

Autumn/Fall

Beach

Beach Party

Black And White

Bluez Brotherz

Bond

Butterfly

Calla Lily

Camelot

Celtic

Cherry Blossom

Christmas

Colors: _____

Cruise Ship

Daisy

Disney

Dolphin

Dreamsicles

Egyptian

Elvis Blue Hawaii

Elvis

Fairy Tale

Fall

Feather/Maribou

Fleur De Lis

Flower Girl Items

Gangster

Golf

Gothic

Gothic Rock

Graveyard

Halloween

Harley

Hawaiian

Heart

Irish

Hollywood Starlet

Intergalactic

Italian

Kim Anderson

Las Vegas

Lavender Floral

Liberace

Lily of the Valley

Linked at the Heart

Love Bird

Mardi Gras

Marry My Friend

Medieval

Monogram

Moroccan

Motorcycle

November

Outdoor

Perfect Pair s

Pirate

Phantom

Pink Caddy

Pirate

Red Rose

Rock And Roll

Red

Rock-a-Billy

Rocky's Horror

Rose

Royalty

Rustic/Barn

Seashell

Shower

Spring

Star Wars
Star
Summer
Swan And Heart
Sweethearts
Tiffany
The Tomb
The Viva Tango
Tulips
Valentine's
Victorian

Viva du Cirque
Wass-up Pussycat
Western
Western/Cowboy
When Vampire's Fly
Wine
Wings of Love
Winter
Winter Wonder Land
Woodstock

Please Describe If Not Listed Above:

22. Do you want to perform Any Unity Ceremonies?

Yes: _____ No: _____

Please circle which one(s) or add it here: _____

13 Coins
Balloon Releases
Bell Ringing Ceremony
Blessing of Children
Blessing Of The Hands
Blessing With Holy Oils
Blessing With Holy Water
Blessing Of The Engagement and
or Bridal Rings
Box Ceremony
Breaking the Glass Ceremony
Broom Jumping
Butterfly Release
Unity Candle Ceremony
Celtic Loving Cup Ceremony
Child Acknowledgement

Children's Ceremony
Chocolate
Circling
Clay Ceremony
Cleansing Of The Hands
Communion
Double Sided Cup
Dove Release
Goldfish
Hand Ceremony
Hand-Fasting
Padlock Ceremony
Roses To The Mothers
Salt
Sand
Water

23. Is Their A Specific Tone To The Ceremony That You're Wanting? (Please Circle) I.e.; Traditional, Spiritual, Formal, Religious, Casual, Interfaith, Shotgun Wedding, Beach Wedding, Fun, Exciting, etc.

24. Do You Want A Passage From "Ruth" Read? Yes: _____ No: _____

25. Do You Want An Opening Prayer (First Reading)? Yes: _____ No: _____
(Our Father, We Come Before You This Holy Occasion With Our Hearts Filled...

26. Do You Want A Liturgy Of The Word Read? (Old Testament Scriptures)
Yes: _____ No: _____

(Usually Taken From Genesis 2:21-25) And The Lord Caused A Deep Sleep To Fall Upon Adam...)

27. Do You Want A Second Reading? (New Testament Scriptures [Normally Taken From St. Paul] Corinthians 13:1-8a. Yes: _____ No: _____

28. Do You Also Want A Gospel Reading? Yes: _____ No: _____
(Normally taken from Mark, Luke, John or Matthew)

29. Do You Want To Receive Communion? Yes: _____ No: _____

30. Will You Be Reading Your Own Vows, Or Will The Standard Vows Be Stated?
Standard: _____ Personal Vows: _____
(Personal Vows Are Very Highly Recommended)

31. Do You Have A Wedding Program Available? Yes: _____ No: _____
If you do, please provide the Reverend Whitters with one.

32. Who Will Provide The Bridal Ring set? _____

Age

33. Will There Be A Flower Girl? (Full Name): _____
(I Will Need Their Age, Middle Initial and Gender also).

34. Will There Be A /Ring Bearer? (Full Name): _____
(I Will Need Their Age, Middle Initial and Gender also). _____

35. Other than the Flower Girl and Ring Bearers, will there be any other young specialty people that you would recommend that Reverend Whitters present a Certificate to that helped with your wedding? (Bible Readers, Train Bearers, Coin Bearers, etc.) Please list their First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name, Gender and What Position They Will Be Holding.

36. Who Will Be The Best Man? (Full Name And Please Include Middle Initial).

37. Who Will Be The Maid Of Honor? (Full Name And Please Include Middle Initial).

38. Please Provide The Names Who Shall Be The 2 Witnesses For Signing The Marriage License? (Must Be Age 16 Or Higher).

If They Are The Best Man And Maid Of Honor, Please So State.

Also, Please Include Any Middle Initial.

1. _____

2. _____

39. Will The Reverend Give A “Blessing Of The Food” At The Reception?

Yes: _____ No: _____

40. Will There Be A Mentioning Or Prayer For Any Deceased Member Of The Family Prior To The Wedding? (Mother, Father, Sister, Brother, Aunt, Etc.)
If Yes, Please Provide Their Name And Relationship To You.

Also, If There Are Other Members Who Could Not Make It Here Today Due To Sickness, Location, Etc., I’ll Also Include Them Into The “In Memory Of” portion.

Please Remember “This Is **NOT** An Obituary Or A Eulogy, **IT’S YOUR WEDDING!**”

<u>Please Print Exact Name To Be Read:</u>	<u>Please Circle</u>	<u>Relationship</u>
_____	Bride/Groom	_____

41. Do Either Of You Have Children?

a. Groom: Yes: _____ No: _____

<u>Please Print Names:</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Gender</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

b. Bride: Yes: _____ No: _____

<u>Please Print Names:</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Gender</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

42. Will There Be Any Children Who Would Like To Be Part Of, Or Mentioned In The Ceremony? (Being Blessed; In Sand or Medallion Ceremony; Etc.). If There Are, Please List Their Information Below. Yes: _____ No: _____

If Yes, Please Give The Full Names Of Each Child With Their Age And Relationship (Or Role (Sand Ceremony, Rock Ceremony, Blessing Of Holy Water Or Oils, Etc.).

<u>Please Print Exact Name To Be Read:</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Relationship/Role</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

