



Civil Marriage Services Information & Planning Package



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Introduction:

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding. The City of Temiskaming Shores is pleased to offer wedding services for every step of your journey - from the marriage licence, to the saying of "I do", to help make your day a special moment to remember.

This package contains information about Civil Marriage Services, to help plan your Ceremony.

Civil Marriage Ceremony Applicant's Check List:

- Secure a Date and Marriage Officiant to perform your Civil Marriage Ceremony (City appointed Marriage Officiants can be found on page 9)
- Determine a location for the Ceremony
- Complete the Pre-Ceremony Information Questionnaire for review with the Officiant
- Review Civil Marriage Ceremony Guidelines
- Obtain a valid Marriage Licence in Ontario, from the City or from another municipal office (Can only be obtained 3 months in advance of your wedding date)
- Make arrangements for two (2) witnesses, preferably over the age of 16
- Review and choose options for Vows for your Civil Marriage Ceremony
Or prepare personal vows. If this option is chosen, provide to the Officiant at the pre-ceremony meeting
- Pay for all required fees, in accordance with this package
- Arrange for any music, videographer, photographer and decorations/ flowers, including a table for signing the marriage register and a pen
- Bring the Marriage Licence and the envelope provided on the day of your ceremony for the Officiant - this document is mandatory and required for the service.
- Apply to the Office of the Registrar General in Thunder Bay (application provided in the marriage Licence package) approximately three (3) months following the ceremony for a Marriage Certificate, or visit: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/how-get-copy-ontario-marriage-certificate-online>

Reminder:

Marriage Licences are valid for **(3) three months** from the date of issue. Forms, fees, etc. will be included with the Marriage Licence, or can be obtained on-line at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/getting-married>.

Legal Requirements:

The City of Temiskaming Shores has qualified Marriage Officiants who are designated to perform civil marriages for those eligible, and who wish to be married in a civil ceremony.

The City's Civil Marriage Service is a non-denominational and dignified ceremony, which adheres to the requirements of the Marriage Act for the Province of Ontario.

Marriage Licence Requirements:

1. Marriage Licence Application forms are available from City Hall (325 Farr Drive) or on our website (www.temiskamingshores.ca). Marriage Licences are issued on an **appointment basis**, based on the availability of staff. Please contact City Hall to schedule an appointment at 705-672-3363.
2. Both parties must complete, date and sign a Marriage Licence Application form. A Marriage Licence can be issued only to the applicant and/or to the joint applicant. The Application and required documentation must be delivered to City Hall, along with the current Fee payable by credit card, debit, cash, or on the City's online payment portal.
3. Each person applying for the marriage licence must bring 2 pieces of acceptable government-issued identification (ID) from the list below – one of which must contain a photograph.
 - Identification must be valid and original (we will not accept photocopies or scanned images/documents)
 - Identification must provide your legal name and date of birth
 - To have your middle name(s) included on your marriage licence, it must also appear on both pieces of ID
 - ID on the list can be from any country, as long as it is government issued

The following government-issued ID is accepted: (Health Cards not accepted)

- Birth Certificate
- Passport
- Driver's Licence
- Ontario Photo Card (Purple photo ID card)
- Certificate of Canadian Citizenship (Canadian Citizenship Card)
- Canadian Government Refugee Travel Document
- Conditional Release Identification Card
- United States Green Card
- Native Status Card
- Record of Immigration Landing
- Confirmation of Permanent Residency
- Permanent Residency Card
- Citizenship Card
- Identity Card
- Nexus Card
- Firearms Acquisition Certificate (FAC)
- Possession & Acquisition Licence (PAL)

4. Any person who is 16 or 17 years of age, requires **both** parents' consent. Please contact the Municipal Clerk for the required documentation.
5. If one or both parties have been divorced within Canada, you will need to bring official proof of the divorce with you when you apply for a marriage licence. This can be the original or a court-certified copy of one of three documents:
 - **the final decree**
 - **the final judgment**
 - **a final certificate of divorce**

These documents are required for examination by the Marriage Licence Issuer, will be returned after the examination, and a copy will be kept for the Clerk's files.

6. If one or both parties have been divorced outside of Canada, the Municipal Clerk must be contacted for the list of required documentation to be submitted to the Office of the Registrar, for review and approval. **Note:** This process can take up to 4 weeks.
7. If one or both parties are widowed, proof of the spouse's death may be required.
8. A Marriage Licence, once issued, is valid for use anywhere in Ontario for a period of three (3) months from the date of purchase/issue.

Fees:

Payments are to be made at the Municipal Office, by credit card, cheque, cash, debit, or on the City's online payment portal. All fees are payable in advance of the ceremony (i.e. at the time the Marriage License is issued). The following fees for Civil Marriage Services, have been approved by Council (By-Law 2015-026, as amended):

Civil Marriage Services Fees

| Description | Fee |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Marriage Licence (By-law No. 2012-039, as amended) | \$150.00 (HST Exempt) |
| Civil Marriage Ceremony - City Hall Monday to Friday (outside of regular business hours) ¹ | \$400.00* |
| Civil Marriage Ceremony - Off-Site (within City of Temiskaming Shores) | \$450.00* |
| Civil Marriage Ceremony – Off-Site (Outside City of Temiskaming Shores/ including on a boat) | \$500.00* |
| Mileage – Applicable for any wedding service located outside of City of Temiskaming Shores ² | Current Rate as Approved by Council |
| * Rates are subject to applicable taxes | |

- 1) Civic Ceremonies at City Hall occur Monday to Friday outside the regular operating hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding lunch hours, and are subject to the availability:
 - a. of the facility; and
 - b. a Marriage Officiant who is an employee of the City.

In addition, the use of confetti, rice, bubbles, candles, incense, and similar items are strictly prohibited at City Hall or on grounds.

- 2) For ceremonies held outside the boundaries of Temiskaming Shores, the Marriage Officiant may claim a mileage expense. Mileage expenses shall be calculated at the current rate as established by the Municipal Expense Policy.

Additional Notes:

1. Ceremonies will be conducted by appointed officiants of the City of Temiskaming Shores.
2. It is the responsibility of the participants to make the appropriate arrangements and to pay for the facility to be utilized for the Marriage Ceremony.

Civil Marriage Ceremony:

The City has Officiants who can perform Civil Marriage Ceremonies in English and French in the Province of Ontario, with certain conditions. The Municipal Clerk and Deputy Clerk also conduct ceremonies in City Hall, or on City Hall grounds (weather permitting), Monday to Friday, subject to availability of the facility and the officiants.

The civil marriage ceremony can last from several minutes to 30 minutes, depending on the vows chosen. Ceremonies can also be performed outside the City's geographic boundaries, subject to the officiant's availability; however, must occur in Ontario.

Same day service for a Civil Marriage Ceremony is possible, provided a valid Ontario Marriage Licence is produced, and a Marriage Officiant is available. It is recommended that ceremonies are booked in advance, to allow for a pre-ceremony meeting.

Changes to the date and/or time are permitted at no additional charge, provided the location and Officiant are available, and request is received a minimum of two business days prior to the originally scheduled date and time. No refund will be issued if the Ceremony is cancelled on the day of the Ceremony, or if the Applicant(s) fail to appear for the Ceremony.

It is recommended that a Civil Marriage Ceremony request be received a minimum of three (3) days prior to the date of the Ceremony, and applicants complete a Pre-Ceremony Information Questionnaire with the Marriage Officiant. The following is required at this meeting:

- ✓ Both parties are required to be in attendance;
- ✓ A completed copy of the Pre-Ceremony Information Questionnaire;
- ✓ A copy of specific vows if personalizing the ceremony; and
- ✓ A valid Marriage Licence issued in the Province of Ontario (date issued must be within three (3) months of ceremony).

Please Note:

1. There is no minimum age requirement for a witness; however, it is suggested they should be at least 14 years of age (16 years old preferred). It is the Applicant's responsibility to provide the witnesses.
2. **Alcohol or stimulants are not to be used by the Applicants or their witnesses prior to or during the Ceremony. If the Officiant has reason to believe that alcohol or other stimulants have been used, the Ceremony will not proceed.**
3. The persons being married must supply an interpreter in the event that they do not speak English or French, and require language assistance if the Marriage Officiant deems it necessary. The interpreter cannot be one of the witnesses.
4. Music will be permitted at certain times throughout the Ceremony and is to be determined during the pre-ceremony meeting.
5. The taking of photographs will be permitted during the Ceremony. An opportunity will also be provided for photos before the ceremony begins, during the signing of the Register, and when the Ceremony is complete. Videotaping of the Ceremony may be permitted, subject to certain limitations at the discretion of the Officiant.
6. For those using City Hall and/or City Hall grounds, the Applicants are responsible for the conduct and supervision of all persons admitted to City Hall, and consent to defend and indemnify The Corporation of the City of Temiskaming Shores for any loss or damages incurred by their invitees, and further that The Corporation of the City of Temiskaming Shores will not be held responsible for personal injury or damage, nor for the theft or loss of any personal property of anyone attending the ceremony.
7. The City Hall Lobby, or outside on City Hall grounds (weather permitting) may be used for civil marriage ceremonies when conducted by a City Staff Marriage Officiant. The ceremony space will be made available for a maximum of forty-five (45) minutes per ceremony. The Applicants, their witnesses and guests are not permitted in areas outside of the ceremony space (i.e. Council chambers, stairs, office spaces, etc.), other than traditional public spaces, such as washrooms.
 - a. A maximum of 15 people (total includes wedding couple, witnesses, children and guests) are permitted to attend civil marriage ceremonies at City Hall, or on City Hall grounds.

- b. On the ceremony day, attendees; i.e., the Applicants (the wedding couple), and their guests, can arrive at City Hall no earlier than 4:30 p.m., unless arrangements have been made with the City Staff Marriage Officiant.
 - c. Music appropriate to the occasion as approved by the City Hall Marriage Officiant, and provided by the Applicants is permitted. Photography and/or videography are allowed before, during or after the ceremony, arranged for by the Applicants.
 - d. No confetti, rice, bubbles, candles, etc., may be used at City Hall or municipal grounds, including decorations affixed to walls or furniture (i.e., tape, staples, nails, etc.). Decorations such as flowers, balloons, flameless candles are permitted and may be placed prior to the Ceremony, and removed immediately following the conclusion of the Ceremony.
 - e. At the conclusion of their civil marriage ceremony, wedding couples, their witnesses and guests will promptly vacate City Hall; however, will be permitted to take pictures on municipal property, outside of City Hall.
8. The Record of Solemnization of Marriage provided at the ceremony is not a legal record. Approximately 6 to 8 weeks after the ceremony, you may apply to the Office of the Registrar General to obtain an official Certificate of Marriage. The appropriate form is included with the Marriage Licence that was issued to the applicants. Note: there is an additional fee payable to the Minister of Finance for the application. Please visit: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/how-get-copy-ontario-marriage-certificate-online> for additional information.
9. Applicants and their guests must arrive on-time. If there is a significant delay, the officiant may be required to reschedule your ceremony to the next available appointment. No refund will be issued.

Pre-Ceremony Consultation Questionnaire

Applicant's Name: _____

Address: _____

Primary Phone No.: _____ Email: _____

Joint Applicant's Name: _____

Address: _____

Primary Phone No.: _____ Email: _____

Marriage Licence No.: _____ Date Issued: _____

Date/ Time/ Place of Rehearsal:

Ceremony Information:

Ceremony Date: _____ Time: _____

Location / Address of Wedding: _____

Approx. No. of Guests: _____ No. in Wedding Party: _____

Witness Name (**for applicant**):

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Witness Name (**for joint applicant**): _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Dress of Wedding Party (casual/ semi-formal/ formal): _____

| | | |
|--|-----|----|
| Is an interpreter required? | Yes | No |
| Sound system provided (i.e., microphone)? | Yes | No |
| Will anyone be giving an Applicant away? | Yes | No |
| - If so, name and relationship: | | |
| Will rings be exchanged during the Ceremony? | Yes | No |
| Will there be a flower girl? | Yes | No |

| | | |
|--|-----|----|
| Will there be a ring bearer? | Yes | No |
| How do you wish to be introduced at the end of the ceremony? E.g.: husband/wife, partners, these two people, Mr. & Mrs. Smith, Mr. & Mrs. John Smith, or Jane & John Smith | | |
| Will there be a Photographer? | Yes | No |
| Will there be a Videographer? | Yes | No |
| <u>City Hall Only:</u> Will there be decorations? | Yes | No |
| - Type of decorations: | | |
| Are there any other additions to the Ceremony? | Yes | No |
| If yes, please identify (attach typewritten copy): | | |
| Additional comments or requests: | | |
| Do you want your ceremony to honour/ mention any family member or friend that could not be at your ceremony? List names below: | | |

The applicants acknowledge that they have read the City of Temiskaming Shores Civil Marriage Services Information & Planning Package, and shall adhere to the requirements established with respect to the provision of civil marriage services by the City of Temiskaming Shores.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date: _____

Joint Applicant's Signature _____ Date: _____

Marriage Officiants:

The City of Temiskaming Shores has the following people appointed to perform marriage solemnization ceremonies:

| | | |
|---|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Logan Belanger, Municipal Clerk lbelanger@temiskamingshores.ca | Municipal Employee | 705-672-3363 Extension 4136 |
| Kelly Conlin, Deputy Clerk kconlin@temiskamingshores.ca | Municipal Employee | 705-672-3363 Extension 4116 |
| Kenneth Ashick thedude0975@gmail.com | Community Appointee | 705-676-7733 |
| Melissa LaPorte Melissa.laporte@gmail.com | Community Appointee | 705-676-7315 |
| Anne-Denise Mejaki mejakia@gmail.com (Bilingual) | Community Appointee | 705-647-6092 |
| Jennifer Moorlag jennifermoorlag@gmail.com | Community Appointee | 705-650-0228 |
| Tara Simmons Tarasimmons4@hotmail.com | Community Appointee | 705-648-4572 |

** For City Hall Marriages, please contact the Municipal Employee Marriage Officiants to confirm availability.

For more information regarding Marriage Solemnization Services, please contact the Municipal or Deputy Clerk at 705-672-3363.

Sample Marriage Ceremony Scripts

City Officiants offer flexibility with the ceremony scripts; however, there are certain legal requirements outlined in Section 24 (3) of the Marriage Act, 1990. These sections are highlighted in **bolded** text in the scripts to follow.

The Couple may review and choose from the following four (4) ceremony scripts, or may personalize parts of the script by using the à la carte options provided herein, including the addition of their own vows. Changes to the ceremony scripts, including the addition of personal vows, must be approved by the Marriage Officiant during the consultation meeting.

Reminder: due to the civil nature of the service, the ceremony shall not refer to any particular or identifiable religious connotations or traditions.

Wedding Ceremony – Script 1

(Date)
(Couple Names)

Optional Statement by Officiant Before Procession

Welcome everyone. My name is (**name of officiant**), and I have the privilege of officiating today's ceremony.

A photographer will be capturing the events of today's celebration; therefore, we respectfully request that cell phones and cameras are placed away. This way you may enjoy the true meaning of this very special occasion.

Please Stand.

Welcome/ Introduction:

Please be seated.

We are gathered here today to witness the formal joining in the legal state of matrimony this (man and this woman) or (couple), under the authority given and provided by the Government of the Province of Ontario.

Optional: _____ and _____ would like to all of you for gathering in this celebration, and with so many of you who have traveled such a great distance.

Optional: Let us also give special and respectful acknowledgment, to those family members and friends who are unable to attend, or who have passed on, but whose spirit remains alive and strong in all of our hearts.

Declaration:

_____, please repeat after me:

**I do solemnly declare
that I do not know
of any lawful reason
why I, _____
may not be joined
in matrimony to _____.**

_____, please repeat after me.

**I do solemnly declare
that I do not know
of any lawful reason
why I, _____
may not be joined
in matrimony to _____.**

Reading 1 (Optional)

Selected by the Couple: _____

"I would now like to call upon _____ for a Reading."

Exchange of Vows:

_____ and _____, please face each other, as the vows you are about to exchange serve as a verbal representation of the love you have promised to each other.

_____, please repeat after me:

**I call upon those here today
to witness that I, _____,
do take you _____
to be my lawful wedded (wife/ husband/ partner or spouse),**

_____, please repeat after me:

**I call upon those here today
to witness that I, _____,
do take you _____
to be my lawful wedded (wife/ husband/ partner or spouse),**

Exchange of Rings (Optional):

We will now proceed with the exchange of rings:

Your rings are a symbol of your marriage, and a symbol of your love and life together.

_____, place your ring on the 3rd finger of _____ left hand, hold it in place and repeat after me:

1. With this ring, I thee wed. I will love, honour and cherish you today and tomorrow, and for all the days to come; or
2. With this ring, I take you as my husband/ wife/ partner/ or spouse, for as long as we both shall live; or
3. With this ring, I take you as my husband/ wife/ partner/ or spouse, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, as long as we both shall live.

(please select one of the above options: 1, 2 or 3)

Repeat above.

Reading 2 (Optional)

Selected by the Couple: _____

“I would now like to call upon _____ for a Reading.”

Pronouncement:

_____ and _____, you have demonstrated your love and commitment to each other through the vows you have just made, and so it is with this in mind that I, **(name of officiant), by virtue of the powers vested in me under the Marriage Act in the Province of Ontario, do hereby pronounce you to be (wife/ husband/ partner or spouse), and (wife/ husband/ partner or spouse), OR to be married.**

1. You may kiss; or
2. You may celebrate your marriage with a kiss.

Signing of the Register:

At this time, the couple and their witnesses will **sign the Official Marriage Register.**

Ceremony Conclusion:

I wish you long life happiness, and may the vows you made to each other today, sustain you forever. It is my pleasure to introduce to you **(The Married Couple).**

Note:

1. All **bolded** text is mandatory for the ceremony.
2. Where options are indicated, please discuss the preferred language with the officiant.

Wedding Ceremony – Script 2

(Date)
(Couple Names)

Optional Statement by Officiant Before Procession

Welcome everyone. My name is (**name of officiant**), and I have the privilege of officiating today's ceremony.

A photographer will be capturing the events of today's celebration; therefore, we respectfully request that cell phones and cameras are placed away. This way you may enjoy the true meaning of this very special occasion.

Please Stand.

Welcome:

Please be seated.

We are gathered here today to witness the formal joining in the legal state of matrimony this (man and this woman) or (couple), under the authority given and provided by the Government of the Province of Ontario.

Optional: _____ and _____ would like to all of you for gathering in this celebration, and with so many of you who have traveled such a great distance.

Optional: Let us also give special and respectful acknowledgment, to those family members and friends who are unable to attend, or who have passed on, but whose spirit remains alive and strong in all of our hearts.

Introduction:

Marriage is a commitment in life, where two people can find and bring out the very best in each other. _____ and _____ have invited us to share in this celebration. Love is one of the highest experiences we can have, and it can add depth of meaning to our lives. Marriage is caring as much about the well-being and happiness of your marriage partner, as you do for your own. It is not total absorption into each other; but rather, 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 you can be involved with life in ways you dare not risk alone. To make your relationship succeed will take love. This is the core of your marriage and why you are here today.

Declaration:

_____ repeat after me:

**I do solemnly declare
that I do not know
of any lawful reason
why I, _____
may not be joined
in matrimony to _____.**

_____ repeat after me.

**I do solemnly declare
that I do not know
of any lawful reason
why I, _____
may not be joined
in matrimony to _____.**

Reading 1 (Optional)

Selected by the Couple: _____

“I would now like to call upon _____ for a Reading.”

Exchange of Vows/ Exchange of Rings:

We will now proceed with the exchange of rings:

_____ and _____, the vows that you are about to exchange serve as a verbal representation of the love you have promised to each other.

For it is not the words that you speak today which will unite you together as one, but the inner sense of love and commitment that each of you feels within your soul. No other human ties are as tender, no other vows more sacred than those you now assume.

Please face each other to repeat your vows:

_____, place your ring on the 3rd finger of _____ left hand, hold it in place and repeat after me:

**I call upon those here today
to witness
that I, _____
take you _____,
to be my lawful wedded (wife/ husband/ partner or spouse).
To have and to hold**

from this day forward,
for better or for worse,
for richer for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
as long as we both shall live.
With this ring, I thee wed.

_____, place your ring on the 3rd finger of _____ left hand, hold it in place and repeat after me:

**I call upon those here today
to witness
that I, _____,
take you _____,
to be my lawful wedded (wife/ husband/ partner or spouse).**
To have and to hold
from this day forward,
for better or for worse,
for richer for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
as long as we both shall live.
With this ring, I thee wed.

Reading 2 (Optional)

Selected by the Couple: _____

“I would now like to call upon _____ for a Reading.”

Pronouncement:

The wedding rings you have exchanged are a symbol of your vows to one another. The rings are an unbroken, never-ending circle - a symbol of commitment and love that you have expressed to each other, through the promises you have made today.

It is with this in mind that I, **(name of officiant)**, by virtue of the powers vested in me under the **Marriage Act in the Province of Ontario**, do hereby pronounce you to be **(wife/ husband/ partner or spouse)**, and **(wife/ husband/ partner or spouse)**, **OR** to be married.

1. You may kiss; or
2. You may celebrate your marriage with a kiss.

Signing of the Register:

At this time, the couple and their witnesses will **sign the Official Marriage Register**.

Ceremony Conclusion:

I wish you long life happiness, and may the vows you made to each other today, sustain you forever.

It is my pleasure to introduce to you (**The Married Couple**).

Or

_____ and _____, may the love, which has brought you together, continue to grow and enrich your lives. May you continue to meet with courage any challenges that may arise. May your relationship always be one of love and trust. May the happiness you share today be with you always. And may everything you have said here today become a living truth in your lives.

It is my pleasure to introduce to you (**The Married Couple**).

Note:

1. All **bolded** text is mandatory for the ceremony.
2. Where options are indicated, please discuss the preferred language with the officiant.

Wedding Ceremony – Script 3

(Date)
(Couple Names)

Optional Statement by Officiant Before Procession

Welcome everyone. My name is **(name of officiant)**, and I have the privilege of officiating today's ceremony.

A photographer will be capturing the events of today's celebration; therefore, we respectfully request that cell phones and cameras are placed away. This way you may enjoy the true meaning of this very special occasion.

Please Stand.

Welcome:

Please be seated.

On behalf of _____ and _____, I welcome you to this celebration of their love for one another, and with so many of you who have traveled such a great distance (optional). Each of you has given something special to their lives. Your love and encouragement will forever be appreciated. Thank you for sharing one of life's happiest moments with them.

Optional: Let us also give special and respectful acknowledgment, to those family members and friends who are unable to attend, or who have passed on, but whose spirit remains alive and strong in all of our hearts.

Today, we are here to celebrate love. We come together to witness and proclaim the joining together of these two persons in legal matrimony, under the authority given and provided by the Government of the Province of Ontario.

Introduction:

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

Declaration:

_____, please repeat after me:

**I do solemnly declare
that I do not know
of any lawful reason
why I, _____
may not be joined
in matrimony to _____.**

_____, please repeat after me.

**I do solemnly declare
that I do not know
of any lawful reason
why I, _____
may not be joined
in matrimony to _____.**

Reading 1 (Optional)

Selected by the Couple: _____

“I would now like to call upon _____ for a Reading.”

Exchange of Vows:

_____ and _____, the vows that you are about to exchange serve as a verbal representation of the love you have promised to each other. For it is not the words that you speak today which will unite you together as one, but the inner sense of love and commitment that each of you feels within your soul. No other human ties are as tender, no other vows more sacred than those you now assume.

Please face each other to repeat your vows:

**I call upon those here today,
to witness that I _____
do take you _____
to be my lawful wedded (wife/ husband/ partner or spouse).**

You are my best friend.

I vow to love you today, tomorrow, and forever.

I promise to honour and respect you,
to be forgiving and understanding,
and to always listen with intention.

With unfailing love,

I will stand by your side through every season

because there is no one else
who I'd rather spend my life with than you.
As I have given you my hand to hold,
so I give you my heart to keep.

**I call upon those here today,
to witness that I _____
do take you _____
to be my lawful wedded (wife/ husband/ partner or spouse).**

You are my one and only.
I vow to love you today, tomorrow, and forever.
I promise to encourage and inspire you,
to be patient and kind,
and to appreciate you for all that you are.
With unfailing love,
I will stand by your side through every season
because there is no one else
who I'd rather spend my life with than you.
As I have given you my hand to hold,
so I give you my heart to keep.

Exchange of Rings (optional):

We will now proceed with the exchange of rings:

This ring is justly regarded as a fitting emblem of the purity and perpetuity of the Marriage State. The ancients were reminded by the circle of eternity, as it is so fashioned as to have neither a beginning or an end; while gold is so incorruptible that it cannot be tarnished by use or time. So may your union, at this time solemnized, be incorruptible in its purity and more lasting than time itself.

_____ please place your ring on the 3rd finger of _____ left hand, hold it and repeat after me:

Just as this ring is without end,
so my love for you is eternal.
Just as it is made of imperishable substance,
my commitment to you will never fail.
With this ring I thee wed.

_____ please place your ring on the 3rd finger of _____ left hand, hold it and repeat after me:

Just as this ring is without end,
so my love for you is eternal.
Just as it is made of imperishable substance,
my commitment to you will never fail.
With this ring I thee wed.

Reading 2 (Optional)

Selected by the Couple: _____

I would now like to call upon _____ for a Reading.

Pronouncement:

The wedding rings you have exchanged are a symbol of your vows to one another. The rings are an unbroken, never-ending circle - a symbol of commitment and love that you have expressed to each other, through the promises you have made today.

It is with these in mind that **I, (name of officiant), by virtue of the powers vested in me under the Marriage Act in the Province of Ontario, do hereby pronounce you to be (wife/ husband/ partner or spouse), and (wife/ husband/ partner or spouse), OR to be married.**

You may kiss.

Signing of the Register:

At this time, the couple and their witnesses will **sign the Official Marriage Register.**

Ceremony Conclusion:

I wish you long life happiness, and may the vows you made to each other today, sustain you forever. It is my pleasure to introduce to you (**The Married Couple**).

Or

_____ and _____, may the love, which has brought you together, continue to grow and enrich your lives. May you continue to meet with courage any challenges that may arise. May your relationship always be one of love and trust. May the happiness you share today be with you always. And may everything you have said here today become a living truth in your lives.

It is my pleasure to introduce to you (**The Married Couple**).

Note:

1. All **bolded** text is mandatory for the ceremony.
2. Where options are indicated, please discuss the preferred language with the officiant.

Wedding Ceremony – Script 4

(Date)
(Couple Names)

Optional Statement by Officiant Before Procession

Welcome everyone. My name is (**name of officiant**), and I have the privilege of officiating today's ceremony.

A photographer will be capturing the events of today's celebration; therefore, we respectfully request that cell phones and cameras are placed away. This way you may enjoy the true meaning of this very special occasion.

Please Stand.

Welcome:

Please be seated.

_____ and _____, want to welcome you to this celebration of their love for one another, and with so many of you who have traveled such a great distance (optional). Each of you has given something special to their lives. Your love and encouragement will forever be appreciated. Thank you for sharing one of life's happiest moments with them and may you be as important a part of their tomorrow as you are of their today.

Optional: Let us also give special and respectful acknowledgment, to those family members and friends who are unable to attend, or who have passed on, but whose spirit remains alive and strong in all of our hearts.

Declaration:

_____, please repeat after me:

**I do solemnly declare
that I do not know
of any lawful reason
why I, _____
may not be joined
in matrimony to _____.**

_____, please repeat after me.

**I do solemnly declare
that I do not know
of any lawful reason
why I, _____
may not be joined
in matrimony to _____.**

Introduction:

_____ and _____ the relationship that you have nurtured together stands for love that will blossom and grow with each passing day. Marriage is the clasping of hands, the blending of hearts, the union of two lives as one.

Marriage is caring as much about the 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 you can be involved with life in ways you dare not risk alone.

To make your relationship succeed 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 solely on promises, but also on trust, respect, faithfulness and the ability to forgive. A lasting marriage is based on all of these, bound together by love.

Reading 1 (Optional)

Selected by the Couple: _____
“I would now like to call upon _____ for a Reading.”

Exchange of Vows:

_____ and _____, the vows that you are about to exchange serve as a verbal representation of the love you have promised to each other. For it is not the words that you speak today which will unite you together as one, but the inner sense of love and commitment that each of you feels within your soul. No other human ties are as tender, no other vows more sacred than those you now assume.

Please face each other to repeat your vows:

_____, please repeat after me:

**I call upon those here today,
to witness that I _____ do take you _____ to be my lawful wedded (wife/
husband/ partner or spouse),
to have and to hold from this day forward,
for better or for worse,
or richer or poorer,
in sickness and in health,
as long as we both shall live.**

_____, please repeat after me:

**I call upon those here today,
to witness that I _____ do take you _____ to be my lawful wedded (wife/
husband/ partner or spouse),**
to have and to hold from this day forward,
for better or for worse,
or richer or poorer,
in sickness and in health,
as long as we both shall live.

Exchange of Rings:

We will now proceed with the exchange of rings:

This circlet of gold is justly regarded as a fitting emblem of the purity and perpetuity of the Marriage State. The ancients were reminded by the circle of eternity, as it is so fashioned as to have neither a beginning or an end; while gold is so incorruptible that it cannot be tarnished by use or time. So may your union, at this time solemnized, be incorruptible in its purity and more lasting than time itself.

_____ please place your ring on the 3rd finger of _____ left hand, hold it and repeat after me:

Just as this ring is without end,
so my love for you is eternal.
Just as it is made of imperishable substance,
my commitment to you will never fail.

With this ring I thee wed.

_____ please place your ring on the 3rd finger of _____ left hand, hold it and repeat after me:

Just as this ring is without end,
so my love for you is eternal.
Just as it is made of imperishable substance,
my commitment to you will never fail.

With this ring I thee wed.

Reading 2 (Optional)

Selected by the Couple: _____
I would now like to call upon _____ for a Reading.

Pronouncement:

_____ and _____ you have expressed your love and commitment to each other through promises you have just made.

It is with this in mind that I, **(name of officiant)**, by virtue of the powers vested in me under the **Marriage Act in the Province of Ontario**, do hereby pronounce you to be **(wife/ husband/ partner or spouse)**, and **(wife/ husband/ partner or spouse)**, **OR to be married.**

You may kiss.

Signing of the Register:

At this time, the couple and their witnesses will **sign the Official Marriage Register.**

Ceremony Conclusion:

I wish you long life happiness, and may the vows you made to each other today, sustain you forever. It is my pleasure to introduce to you **(The Married Couple)**.

Or

_____ and _____, may the love, which has brought you together, continue to grow and enrich your lives. May you continue to meet with courage any challenges that may arise. May your relationship always be one of love and trust. May the happiness you share today be with you always. And may everything you have said here today become a living truth in your lives.

It is my pleasure to introduce to you **(The Married Couple)**.

Note:

1. All **bolded** text is mandatory for the ceremony.
2. Where options are indicated, please discuss the preferred language with the officiant.

À la carte

Ceremony Options

À la carte Ceremony Options

Introduction Options:

Option #1

Marriage is the promise between two people who love each other, and who trust in that love, who honor one another as individuals, and who wish to spend the rest of their lives together.

This ceremony will not create a relationship that does not already exist between you. It is a symbol of how far you have come in the past ___ years. It is a symbol of the promises you will make to each other to continue growing stronger as individuals and as partners, no matter what challenges or success you encounter together in the years before you.

Today, your lives, which began on separate paths, will be joined as one.

Option #2

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.

Happiness in marriage is not something that just happens. 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 having a mutual sense of values and common objectives; it is forming a circle of love that gathers the whole family; it is speaking of appreciation, and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways; it is having the capacity to forgive and forget; it is not only marrying the right partner, it is being the right partner.

Option #3

_____ and _____, in the days ahead of you, there will be times of difficulty and conflict. When you find yourselves in these situations, I ask you to reflect on this marriage advice.

Let your love be stronger than your anger.

Learn the wisdom of compromise, for it is better to bend than to break.

Look for the best in your beloved rather than the worst.

Confide in your partner and ask for help when you need it.

Remember that true friendship is the basis for any lasting relationship.

Give your spouse the same courtesies and kindnesses you bestow on your friends.

Say "I love you" every day.

Declaration

No options available, the Marriage Act requires the following:

**I do solemnly declare
that I do not know
of any lawful reason
why I, _____
may not be joined
in matrimony to _____.**

(Repeated by both parties)

Exchange of Vows:

Option #1

**I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I, _____ do take you,
_____ to be my lawful wedded (wife/husband/partner/spouse).**

I promise to be faithful, supportive, and loyal and to give you my companionship and love throughout all the changes of our life. I vow to bring you happiness, and I will treasure you as my companion. I will celebrate the joys of life with you. I promise to support your dreams, and walk beside you offering courage and strength through all endeavors.

From this day forward, I will be proud to be your wife/husband/partner/spouse and your best friend.

(Repeated by both parties)

Option #2

**I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I, _____ do take you,
_____ to be my lawful wedded (wife/husband/partner/spouse) from this day
forward, to have and to hold as equal partner in my life, to whom I give my deepest love
and devotion. I open my heart to you as a sanctuary of warmth and peace, where you
may come and find a refuge of love and strength. I will love you enough to risk being hurt,
trust you when I don't understand, weep with you in heartache, and celebrate life with you
in joy. I will receive you as my equal throughout all of our days.**

(Repeated by both parties)

Option# 3

I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I, _____ do take you, _____ to be my lawful wedded (wife/husband/partner/spouse), my partner in life and my one true love. I will cherish our friendship and love you today, tomorrow and forever. I will trust 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.

(Repeated by both parties)

Exchange of Rings

Option #1

_____ please place your ring on the 3rd finger of _____ left hand, hold it and repeat after me:

“I begin my life with you today knowing that we have developed a trust and commitment that is strong enough to last through good times and bad. With this ring, I offer you my hand, my heart, and my soul as I know they will be safe with you.”

(Repeated by both parties)

Option #2

_____ please place your ring on the 3rd finger of _____ left hand, hold it and repeat after me:

“ _____, I give you this ring, as a daily reminder of my love for you.”

(Repeated by both parties)

Option #3

The ring is a symbol of the unbroken circle of love. Love, freely given has no beginning and no end. May these rings always remind you of the vows you have taken.

_____ please place your ring on the 3rd finger of _____ left hand, hold it and repeat after me:

“I _____, take thee _____, to be my husband/wife/partner/spouse. 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/ wife/husband /partner/ spouse, for as long as we both shall live.”

(Repeated by both parties)

Option #4

Wedding rings are an unbroken circle of love, signifying to all the union of this couple in marriage.

_____ please place your ring on the 3rd finger of _____ left hand, hold it and repeat after me:

“ _____, 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. With this ring, I thee wed.”

(Repeated by both parties)

Reading Options

Reading #1

Corinthians 13:4-7, ESV

Love is always patient and kind. It is never jealous.
Love is never boastful or conceited, it is never rude
or selfish, it does not take offense and is not resentful.
Love takes no pleasure in other people's faults, but delights in the truth.
It is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope.
It is always ready to endure whatever comes.
True love does not come to an end.

Reading #2

True Love

By: Bryan L. Harvey

True love is a sacred flame
That burns eternally,
And none can dim its special glow
Or change its destiny.
True love speaks in tender tones
And hears with gentle ear,
True love gives with open heart
And true love conquers fear.
True love makes no harsh demands
It neither rules nor binds,
And true love holds with gentle hands
The hearts that it entwines.

Reading #3

Time Travelers

By: Terah Cox

May you take on the world together
with all your hopes and dreams
May you be each other's anchor
in smooth or rocky seas
May you bend to the world's winds
and brave stalls and storms
May you find common ground
in all its changing forms
May you cross stubborn boundaries
and turn many a stone
May you find haven for your souls
May you have heart and home
And if some days are gray
and some nights are long and cold
May you be each other's sun and moon
as your destinies unfold
And should you lose sight of each other
and start to drift apart
May you circle back by following
the compass of your heart.

Reading #4

Love Is Friendship Caught Fire

By: Laura Hendricks

Love is friendship caught fire; it is quiet, mutual confidence, sharing and forgiving. It is loyalty through good and bad times. It settles for less than perfection, and makes allowances for human weaknesses. Love is content with the present, hopes for the future, and does not brood over the past. It is the day-in and day-out chronicles of irritations, problems, compromises, small disappointments, big victories, and working toward common goals. If you have love in your life, it can make up for a great many things you lack. If you do not have it, no matter what else there is, it is not enough.

Reading #5

Marriage Joins Two People in the Circle of its Love

By Edmund O'Neill

Marriage is a commitment to life, the best that two people can find and bring out in each other. It offers opportunities for sharing and growth that no other relationship can equal. It is a physical and an emotional 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. And 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 a love that is deeper than life.

When two people pledge their love and care for each other in marriage, they create a spirit unique unto 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 each other and takes a lifetime to fulfil.

Reading #6

Maybe...

By: Author Unknown

Maybe....we are supposed to meet the wrong people before we meet the right one so when they finally arrive we are truly grateful for the gift we have been given.

Maybe....it's true that we don't know what we have lost until we lose it but it is also true that we don't know what we're missing until it arrives.

Maybe....the happiest of people don't have the best of everything, but make the best of everything that comes their way.

Maybe....the best kind of love is the kind where you sit on the sofa together, not saying a word and walk away feeling like it was the best conversation you've ever had.

Maybe....once in a lifetime you find someone who not only touches your heart but also your soul, someone who loves you for who you are and not what you could be.

Maybe...the art of true love is not about finding the perfect person, but about seeing an imperfect person perfectly.

Reading #7

Love

By: Ann Landers

Love is friendship that has caught fire.
It is quiet understanding, mutual confidence, sharing and forgiving.
It is loyalty through good and bad times.
It settles for less than perfection and makes allowances for human weaknesses.
Love is content with the present, it hopes for the future, and it doesn't brood over the past.
It's the day-in and day-out chronicle of irritations,
problems, compromises,
small disappointments, big victories and working toward common goals.
If you have love in your life, it can make up,
for a great many things that are missing.
If you don't have love in your life, no matter what else there is,
It's not enough.

Reading #8

Excerpt from "The Art of a Good Marriage",

By: Wilferd Arlan Peterson

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 having a mutual sense of values, and common objectives.
It is standing together and facing the world.
It is forming a circle that gathers in the whole family.
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.

Reading #9

The Key to Love

By: Anon, 1st century China

The key to love is understanding ...

The ability to comprehend not only the spoken word,
but those unspoken gestures,
the little things that say so much by themselves.

The key to love is forgiveness

to accept each other's faults and pardon mistakes,
without forgetting, but with remembering
what you learn from them.

The key to love is sharing ...

Facing your good fortunes as well as the bad, together;
both conquering problems, forever searching for ways
to intensify your happiness.

The key to love is giving ...

without thought of return,
but with the hope of just a simple smile,
and by giving in but never giving up.

The key to love is respect ...

realizing that you are two separate people, with different ideas;
that you don't belong to each other,
that you belong with each other, and share a mutual bond.

The key to love is inside us all ...

It takes time and patience to unlock all the ingredients
that will take you to its threshold;
it is the continual learning process that demands a lot of work ...
but the rewards are more than worth the effort ...
and that is the key to love.

Reading #10

The Promises of Marriage

By: Author Unknown

Marriage is a promise of companionship,
Of having someone to share all of life's experiences.
Marriage does not promise that there will not be any rough times,
Just the assurance that there will always be someone who cares
and will help you through to better times.
Marriage does not promise eternal romance,
Just eternal love and commitment.
Marriage cannot prevent disappointments, disillusionment, or grief,
But it can offer hope, acceptance, and comfort.
Marriage can't protect you from making individual choices
Or shelter you from the world,
But it will help to reassure you that there is someone by your side - who truly cares.
When the world hurts you and makes you feel vulnerable,
Marriage offers the promise that there will be someone
waiting to listen, to console, to inspire.
Marriage is the joining of two people who share
the promise that only marriage can make –
To share the sunshine and the shadows,
And to experience a richer, more fulfilling life because of it.

Reading #11

Let's grow old together

By: Author Unknown

Let's grow old together... beginning with today.
Let's work slowly with each other and build a relationship that we can both enjoy being a part of.
Let's share love and understand that neither of us is perfect; we are both subject to human frailties.
Let's hold each other close and whisper through the night, pledging our love, honouring our commitment.
Let's encourage each other to pursue our dreams, even when we're weary from trying.
Let's expect the best that we both have to give and still love when we fall short of our expectations.
Let's be friends and respect each other's individual personality and give one another room to grow.
Let's be candid with each other and point out strengths and weaknesses.
Let's understand each other's personal philosophy, even if we don't agree.
Let's lie awake long into the night sharing our innermost secrets.
Let's be friends as well as lovers.
Let's laugh at time and plan with each other and wonder how we ever got along without this love we've found.
Let's never take for granted these moments that we've shared, but always be reminded of how intensely we have learned to live, how completely we have learned to love.
Let's grow old together... and look back on life and smile.

Reading #12

The One

By: Author Unknown

When the one whose hand you're holding
is the one who holds your heart,
When the one whose eyes you gaze into
gives your hopes and dreams their start,
When the one you think of first and last
is the one who holds you tight,
And the things you plan together
makes the whole world seem just right,
When the one whom you believe in
puts their faith and trust in you,
You've found the one and only
to share your whole life through.

Pronouncement Options:

Option #1

_____ and _____, as a collection of words, this ceremony would count for little, were it not for the love and commitment you have pledged to one another. Your vows may have been spoken in minutes, but your promises to each other will last a lifetime. Having witnessed your vows for marriage with all who are assembled here, **I, (name of officiant), by virtue of the powers vested in me under the Marriage Act in the Province of Ontario, do hereby pronounce you to be (wife/ husband/ partner or spouse), and (wife/ husband/ partner or spouse), OR to be married.**

Option #2

You have made your marriage vows to one another, witnessed by your friends and family. You have sealed your vows with the giving and receiving of these rings. It is with this in mind that **I, (name of officiant), by virtue of the powers vested in me under the Marriage Act in the Province of Ontario, do hereby pronounce you to be (wife/ husband/ partner or spouse), and (wife/ husband/ partner or spouse), OR to be married.**

Option #3

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. It is with that in mind that **I, (name of officiant), by virtue of the powers vested in me under the Marriage Act in the Province of Ontario, do hereby pronounce you to be (wife/ husband/ partner or spouse), and (wife/ husband/ partner or spouse), OR to be married.**

Conclusion Options

Option #1

It gives me great pleasure to present to you, for the first time as husband and wife, Mr. and Mrs. _____.

Option #2

Please put your hands together to congratulate the newlyweds! _____ & _____ (last name)!

Option #3

I would like to introduce the happy couple _____.

Option #4

It is my honor to present to you, for the first time as husband/ wife/ partner/ spouse _____ and _____ (Last Name).