



# NOTTINGHAMSHIRE REGISTRATION SERVICE TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE CEREMONY

## Pre-ceremony Announcements

Before the ceremony begins, we will ask your guests to make sure their phones are on silent.

You may choose for us to announce that either your guests are welcome to take photos / video, or they are welcome to take photos / video but not to post on social media without your permission, or to request that they do not take photos / video during the ceremony.

You may choose how we refer to your guests throughout the ceremony; Ladies and Gentlemen, Family and Friends, Honoured Guests, Wedding Guests or One and All.

## Your Entrance

To begin the ceremony, you may choose to make a grand entrance into the ceremony room or to informally begin the ceremony without fanfare. Music of your choice can be played, as you wish.

If you choose to make an entrance, you may do this as a couple, or with one of you waiting in the ceremony room and the other making an entrance (with or without an escort), or with each of you making a separate entrance (with or without escorts).

## Question to Escort(s)

If one or both of you choose to be escorted into the ceremony room, the Celebrant Registrar will ask your escort(s), “ \_\_\_\_\_ (your escort), do you give \_\_\_\_\_’s hand in marriage to \_\_\_\_\_?”

Your escort(s) should respond, “I do”.

## **Celebrant Registrar's Welcome to Your Venue**

*"A very good morning / afternoon to you all and on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, may I welcome you to (venue) and thank you for being here today, to witness their marriage and to share in their happiness.*

*My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and it is my pleasure to conduct their ceremony today, with the support of my colleague \_\_\_\_\_, who will complete the schedule, which is the legal record of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_'s marriage."*

The Celebrant Registrar will say a few words here about the venue you have chosen for your ceremony.

## **Confirming Your Names and Calling for Objections**

The Celebrant Registrar will ask each of you in turn, *"is your full name \_\_\_\_\_?"*

*"We are here to witness the joining in matrimony of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. They have come to (venue) to make a formal shared commitment to spending their lives together. They wish to pledge their love and care for each other in marriage, to create a spirit unique to themselves.*

*If any person here present knows of any lawful impediment, why \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ should not be joined in marriage, they must declare it now..."*

## **All About Marriage**

*"\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have chosen today to celebrate one of the most important milestones in life, their wedding day.*

*From earliest times, couples have sought to unify their individual lives through the tradition of marriage. It is a mutual enrichment and a commitment to life, in which two people can find and bring out the best in each other.*

*Marriage is a life-long promise of hope between two people who love each other, who honour one another as individuals and who wish to share their future together.*

*Love starts as a feeling, but to continue is a choice. A marriage grows and blossoms with each passing day.*

*Today, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have chosen to become a married couple, joined together in the trust, respect, and loving commitment of marriage.*

*Now and forever, they will be as one. They will celebrate each other's achievements. For when one succeeds, they both do.*

*They will share each other's hopes and dreams. They will plan for the future together.*

*Through the highs and lows of life, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ will be there for each other. Sharing their lives in mutual support and appreciation.*

*Growing and developing as individuals and as a couple, safe in the confidence and security of their marriage."*

### **Introducing the Legal Declaration**

*"This place in which you are now met has been duly sanctioned, according to the law, for the celebration of marriages and I will now ask \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to confirm that there is no legal reason why they should not be married to each other, and that they are each choosing to marry of their own free will.*

*\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, before you are joined in matrimony, I have to remind you of the solemn and binding character of the vows you are about to make.*

*Marriage in this country means the union of two people, voluntarily entered into for life, to the exclusion of all others."*

## **The Legal Declaration**

The Celebrant Registrar will say to each of you in turn, *“please repeat after me, looking at \_\_\_\_\_. I do solemnly declare that I know not, of any lawful impediment, why I \_\_\_\_\_, may not be joined in matrimony to \_\_\_\_\_.”*

The Celebrant Registrar will guide you through these legal words, a few at a time.

## **The ‘I Do’s’**

The Celebrant Registrar will then say to each of you in turn, *“by replying ‘I do’ to these questions:*

*Do you \_\_\_\_\_ freely consent to be joined in marriage to \_\_\_\_\_?*

*And do you promise to remain faithful to \_\_\_\_\_ for the rest of your lives together?”*

You should each respond, “I do”, in answer to each question.

## **(Optional) Reading**

You may choose to include a reading here, either one of our suggested readings (1-8) or another of your choice. This could be presented by you, one of your guests, or one of the Celebrant Registrars, as you wish.

## **(Optional) Presentation and Exchange of Wedding Ring(s) and Personal Promises**

*“\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have chosen to exchange (wedding rings / a wedding ring) to seal their marriage vows.*

*The wedding ring is an ancient and traditional symbol of marriage, an unbroken circle, symbolising everlasting love.*

*From today, (these rings / this ring) will represent the promises of love and commitment, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are making to each other today.*

*(They / it) will be the outward and visible sign of their marriage.*

*I would like to invite \_\_\_\_\_ (your ring-bearer) to come forward, to present the wedding ring(s)."*

The Celebrant Registrar will guide you through the exchange of rings / a ring and say to each of you in turn, *"Please repeat after me. \_\_\_\_\_ I give you (or I accept) this ring, as a symbol of my love, and a sign of our marriage. With this ring I give you my loyalty, my commitment and my devotion, from this day and always."*

The Celebrant Registrar will guide you through these words, a few at a time.

If you are choosing to exchange personal promises, the Celebrant Registrar will invite you to make your promise after giving or receiving a ring. If you have chosen one of our suggested promises (1-8), the Celebrant Registrar will hand you your promise on a card to read – if you would prefer the Celebrant Registrar to guide you through these words, please let us know.

### **Introducing the Legal Contract**

*"I will now guide \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ through the words which will join them together in marriage. Please can I ask you all to stand, if able, to show your support."*

### **The Legal Contract**

The Celebrant Registrar will say to each of you in turn, *"please repeat after me, looking at \_\_\_\_\_. I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I \_\_\_\_\_, do take thee \_\_\_\_\_, to be my lawful wedded (wife / husband)."*

The Celebrant Registrar will guide you through these legal words, a few at a time.

## **Celebrant Registrar's Pronouncement of Marriage**

*" \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, this is the start of a new chapter in your lives together.*

*We hope that the feelings of love you share, will grow ever deeper and stronger, throughout the years to come.*

*In the presence of your witnesses, you have confirmed your commitment to each other and made vows which have joined you together sincerely and forever.*

*It is with great pleasure that I now confirm you are legally joined together in marriage!"*

You may choose for the Celebrant Registrar to invite you both to share a kiss, or not, as you wish.

The Celebrant Registrar will invite your guests to take a seat and will facilitate the signing of the marriage schedule by you and your witnesses, followed by an opportunity for photos. Music of your choice can be played, as you wish.

## **Celebrant Registrar's Closing Words**

You may choose how we announce you upon exit; Mr/Mrs and Mr/Mrs + new married name, first names only, the happy couple, newly-weds etc.