

Wedding Ceremony Draft

The parts in **Bold and underlined, must be done**

and are the 3 parts of a “legals only” wedding.

- ❖ Other parts are optional and *only limited by your imagination*. Now let's get talking a create a ceremony that is uniquely you and will be memorable for everyone involved.

- ❖ Brief Welcome (Prior to arrival of couple)
- ❖ Processional (Music)
- ❖ Personal story (I write this with input from you)
- ❖ Reading, song or sub ceremony
- ❖ “Giving away” by family member(s)
- ❖ Reflection on family/ancestors
- ❖ Friends, Children's or parents' participation (Sub ceremony)
- ❖ Reading/Poem

Monitum

I, Geoff Hayhow, a civil celebrant, am duly authorised by law to solemnise marriages according to law. Before you, Person 1 and you Person 2, are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of these witnesses, I am to remind you of the solemn and binding nature of the relationship into which you are now about to enter. Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of two people to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life with the desire and hope and the firm intention that it will last forever.

The asking *(words in the asking can be changed and personalised)*

Geoff: Will you (Person 1), take (Person 2) to be your lifelong (wife; husband; partner; spouse)?

Will you make the daily effort to relate to her and listen to (her/him)?

Will you be gracious and generous and giving of yourself?

Will you work for what is best for (her/him) for the rest of your life?

Person 1: I will

To Person 2:

Geoff: Will you (Person 2), take (Person 1), take to be your lifelong (wife; husband; partner; spouse)?

Will you make the daily effort to relate to him and listen to (her/him)?

Will you be gracious and generous and giving of yourself?

Will you work for what is best for (her/him) for the rest of your life?

Person 2: I will

Vows

(The underlined statement is a legal requirement). Add what you would like to say to each other.

What do you promise in your marriage? You can work on it together or make it a surprise on the day.

Person 1: "I call upon the people here present to witness that I, Person 1 take you person 2, to be my lawful wedded (Bride; Groom; Spouse; Partner) Additional vows to be added before or after the legal requirement."

Person 2: "I call upon the people here present to witness that I Person 2 take you person 1 to be my lawful wedded (Bride; Groom; Spouse; Partner) Additional vows to be added before or after the legal requirement."

❖ Rings Couple turn to face each other. Rings from ring bearer

Words for the rings can also be personalised.

Place rings on each other's fingers and then read together

"We will wear these rings and the world will know that I am yours and you are mine".

Or

This ring I give you is my personal gift, my personal promise of love and trust
and pride that you are my Husband

This ring I give you is my personal gift, my personal promise of love and trust
and pride that you are my Wife.

❖ Support Vows of guests

Friends you have heard that Person 1 and Person 2 cherish their time with you and your presence here. You have all been important in supporting them as individuals and now they ask for your support of their marriage. Please show your support by responding to the following vows with the words “we will”.

Will you pledge your support for Person 1 and Person 2 as a couple in their marriage rather than as individuals?

ALL: We will

Will you support them in their new life together celebrating and rejoicing their happiness and sustaining them in their struggles?

ALL: We will

❖ Reading

❖ **Signing of certificates** (Music)

❖ Declaration of Marriage (Couple turn toward the guests. Holding hands)

Person 1 and Person 2 *have declared before all of us that they will live together in marriage. They have made special promises to each other. They have symbolised it by joining hands, taking vows, and by exchanging rings. So therefore, on your behalf and behalf of the community, I now declare them to be (Husband and wife; Spouse and spouse; Life partners)*

❖ The Kiss

❖ Announcements

❖ Presentation of Certificates

❖ Recessional (Music)