

Nonreligious Ceremony

1. The entrance

Please gather round so we may begin the ceremony.

2. Opening words

We are gathered here today to celebrate one of life's greatest moments, to give recognition to the worth and beauty of love, and to add our best wishes to the words which shall unite Name 1 and Name 2 in marriage.

Let this be a day of happiness, gratitude, possibility, and celebration for Name 1 and Name 2 who are coming together to demonstrate the wonder of love through their wedding celebration.

We who are witnessing your marriage, hope that despite the stresses inevitable in any life, your love and respect for each other, and your trust and understanding of each other, will increase your contentment and heighten your joy in living.

3. Wedding Address

Dear Friends and Family,

Marriage is a very special place in which we can learn and grow as individuals, with the support, love and companionship of that other very special person who has made the commitment and promise to share life's journey together.

Marriage is a bond to be entered into only after considerable thought and reflection, and with full appreciation of its sacred nature. Marriage is a gift, given to comfort the sorrows of life and magnify the joys. 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, Name 1 and Name 2 have come here today

to be joined as lifelong partners.

We are here today, not only to witness your commitment to each other, Name 1 and Name 2, but also to wish you both every happiness in your future life together. Within its framework of commitment and loyalty, marriage enhances your life. Trust, patience, respect, and the love and affection that you have for each other may continue to develop and deepen in the years to come.

And here we gather today, to be with Name 1 and Name 2 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 Name 1 and Name 2, 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 confirms their outward status to the love, friendship and affection that is already there.

4. Reading

The great poet Rumi wrote many wonderful and meaningful words. Let's take a brief moment to reflect upon a poem he wrote called "This Marriage."

May these vows and this marriage be blessed.

May it be sweet milk,
this marriage, like wine and halvah.

May this marriage offer fruit and shade
like the date palm.

May this marriage be full of laughter,
our every day a day in paradise.

May this marriage be a sign of compassion,
a seal of happiness here and hereafter.

May this marriage have a fair face and a good name,
an omen as welcomes the moon in a clear blue sky.

I am out of words to describe
how spirit mingles in this marriage.

5. Statement of Intent and Exchange of Vows.

As an expression that you are joining hearts and lives in all ways, please join hands while facing each other, to recite your vows.

Do you, Name 1 take Name 2 to be your wedded wife/husband, to cherish in love and in friendship, in strength and in weakness, in success and in disappointment, to love her/him faithfully, today, tomorrow, and for as long as the two of you shall live?

I do.

Do you, Name 1 take Name 2 to be your wedded husband/wife, to cherish in love and in friendship, in strength and in weakness, in success and in disappointment, to love him/her faithfully, today, tomorrow, and for as long as the two of you shall live?

I do.

6. 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.

Name 1, please place this ring on Name 2 finger and repeat after me:

With this ring
I pledge my love and my life to you.

Name 2, while placing the ring on Name 1's finger, please repeat these words after me:

With this ring
I pledge my love and my life to you.

7. Blessing of Marriage

Name 1 and Name 2, 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 assault 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 sight 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.

18. Pronouncement

Name 1 and Name 2, 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 /Washington, I pronounce you married. 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, (Name)

11. Recessional

May we have (name 1) and (name 2) and their two witnesses come together to sign the marriage license?

(Grooms walk to the table with the Marriage License.)