

Your Civil Marriage Ceremony in Edinburgh

Your marriage ceremony would normally follow the structure shown below.

This can be personalised through the selection of options detailed within.

You will find a form at the rear of the booklet which relates directly to each section of the ceremony, please detach this form & return if applicable.

Welcome / Introduction

Identification* & Declarations to be made

Reading (if chosen)

Definition of Marriage

Paperwork Preliminaries

Reading (if chosen)

Consent to Declarations

Declarations* / Vows

Exchange of Rings

Pronouncement*

Signing of Schedule

*Can not be removed completely from ceremony

Readings, poems etc. may be chosen by you for a guest or guests to read.

Religious content is permissible but cannot be delivered by the Registrar or incorporated in to sections marked with an asterisk above.

Our readings booklet, if not already enclosed, is available upon request.

Welcome / Introduction

Usual Wording

Good morning/afternoon and welcome to *venue's name*.....

My name is and I have been authorised by the Registrar General for Scotland to conduct civil marriage ceremonies in the District of Edinburgh.

We are here today to witness and celebrate the marriage of and

Through their words during this ceremony they shall be entering into the commitment of marriage, and, through your presence as witnesses and guests you will be expressing your support for them.

Optional Wording

- A:** May I ask you as 's*escort**... that you do consent to him/her being married here today? Thank you, would you please also be seated. (*father / brother / mother etc.)
- B:** May I ask you to confirm you are and as legal witnesses to this wedding that you do consent this union taking place?
- C:** Marriage is a defining moment in any couples life; a sign of the depth of their commitment to each other and an important occasion , which we've been invited to share with them
- D:** Family and friends, we welcome you today to witness the marriage of & You have been part of, and contributed to, their lives and by sharing today with them you will be part of their future.
- E:** Welcome to the marriage of & Today is a special day for them as they will join together in marriage supported by those who care for them. Your presence here as they affirm a life long commitment to each other signifies your importance in their lives.
- F:** If your venue or date of marriage has any particular significance to you and you wish to incorporate this into your ceremony, please provide these details when completing the form at the rear of this booklet.

Identification & Declarations to be made

Usual Wording

Before I proceed with this civil marriage ceremony the law requires that I must ask both the parties to the marriage to formally identify themselves in my presence and in the presence of their witnesses.

Therefore, can you now confirm that your name is.....

Therefore, can you now confirm that your name is.....

Today's ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with the Marriage (Scotland) Act 1977. Under this particular act, to be married, a couple are required to make certain declarations.

Firstly they will declare that they know of no legal impediment to their marriage. In other words they will both declare that there is no reason why they should not be joined in marriage. Secondly they must declare their true and mutual consent to the marriage. They do this by accepting each other as partners in marriage to the exclusion of all others. When these declarations are made in the correct manner, this creates a valid, legal marriage.

Optional Wording

- A:** In addition to making the declarations required by law, & shall also exchange vows, chosen by themselves as words that have a special meaning to them, which they wish to share here in the presence of you all.
- B:** & have also written their own personal vows which they will make to one another in our presence later in the ceremony.
- C:** Further words close to the heart of our couple shall come from readings selected by them for & to say shortly.
- D:** In addition to the words which our couple will say today, & have also chosen some words to share with us shortly.

Definition of Marriage

Usual Wording

..... &, it is my duty to remind you of the binding character of the declarations you are about to make, marriage according to the laws of this country is the voluntary union of two people, for the duration of their lives, to the exclusion of all others.

Optional Wording (multiple or merged options are acceptable)

- A:** A successful marriage is one where each partner discovers that it is better to give love than to receive it. To truly love another person is to wish that person to develop and flourish in his or her own terms.
- B:** Marriage joins two people who trust the love they have found. It is a partnership in which each can grow and be true to themselves, whilst sharing in the development of each other. It is a statement to all those around them, of something the two of them already know, that they have found such love friendship and support that they want to share the rest of their lives together.
- C:** Marriage is more than words or ceremony. It is a commitment to be reaffirmed each and every day. You can make your marriage a living thing. It will be the two of you who begin every day by making choices. To express caring or avoiding it; to reveal love or to be too busy; to acknowledge respect and to take joy from one another or build walls; and through those daily choices, to renew the wedding vows you will make today.
- D:** Marriage means making a commitment to each other, it means developing and maintaining affection, co-operation, friendship and mutual respect.
It calls for honesty, patience, trust and humour. It requires both closeness and distance, the closeness of a couple growing together and sufficient distance to allow each other to grow as an individual.
- E:** In marriage you give of yourself freely and generously into the hands of the one you love. The trust you share is a precious gift to be treasured. Today you are affirming your love for each other, acknowledging that you are stronger together than you are apart and that you wish to share all life's joys and challenges together.
- F:** Marriage is a precious gift, a lifelong dedication and a daily challenge. Look for the best in each other, let your love be stronger than your anger and remember that true friendship is the basis for a lasting relationship.

Definition of Marriage continued

- G:** Marriage respects that you are two separate people with different ideas and dreams. You don't belong to each other but with each other. Marriage means sharing your good fortunes as well as the bad, conquering any problems and facing life together with confidence in your love for each other.
- H:** Your own words drafted on what marriage means to you both

Paperwork Preliminaries

Usual Wording

To be here today, you have been required to lodge written notice of your intention to marry with my office. This notice period is now complete and no impediments to your marriage have been found to exist.

Your names and intention to marry have been displayed for the statutory period within my office and you will be pleased to hear, that no objections have been lodged.

The legalities complete and now wish to affirm their relationship in a formal and public pledge, offering each other the security that comes from legally binding vows, sincerely made and faithfully kept.

Optional Wording

- A:** Your own drafted words – This is an ideal section of the ceremony to share a story with your guests of how you both met, your first date or perhaps of the marriage proposal.



Consent to Declarations

Usual Wording

We are not here simply as an audience today, the presence of all of you to witness this event is important to and

Also we are not present to hear recited words, we are here to listen to the making of sincere pledges.

..... are you ready without reservation to make both your declarations that will join you in marriage to

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Optional Wording

A: It is at this stage of the ceremony that I must ask you, are you both ready, without reservation, to make the required declarations which will join you in marriage here today?

B:*making of sincere pledges* which, while including the legally required wording, will also contain vows which and have composed themselves to exchange at this moment in their lives.

C: The marriage ceremony provides an opportunity to bring together friends and family in one place to bestow the message of love and commitment and for everyone to celebrate the happiness of the married couple.

D:, will you ask if he/she will be your husband/wife
i.e. "*will you be my husband/wife & let me love you for the rest of our lives?*"

....., will you ask if he/she will be your husband/wife
i.e. "*will you be my husband/wife & let me love you for the rest of our lives?*"

E: Your own drafted wording, consenting to proceed to the declarations

Declarations / Vows

Usual Wording - No Impediment declaration

..... please repeat after me:

I / do solemnly and sincerely declare /
that I know of no legal impediment / to my marrying.....

..... please repeat after me:

I / do solemnly and sincerely declare /
that I know of no legal impediment / to my marrying.....

Usual Wording – Accepting Spouse declaration*

Your second declaration today is where you shall accept each other in marriage, please now turn and face each other and join both your hands together.

..... please make this declaration to

I solemnly and sincerely declare / that Iaccept you
/ as my lawful wedded husband/wife / to the exclusion of all others

..... please make this declaration to

I solemnly and sincerely declare / that Iaccept you
/ as my lawful wedded husband/wife / to the exclusion of all others

Declarations / Vows continued

Optional Wording

(would be added to Spouse declaration – multiple/merged options acceptable)

- A:** I promise to Love, Honour and Respect you / In Sickness and in Health
For Richer for Poorer / For Better for Worse / And upon this Promise,
I will base our Marriage
- B:** Before these witnesses, this is my promise /
To treasure and take care of the special love we have together /
To grow with you and respect your ideas and expressions /
To always talk with you / and share our happy times and our sad times
- C:** I promise loyalty and friendship /
And to love you with all that I am and all that I can /
This I promise you from the depths of my heart and mind /
For all our life together
- D:** Do you promise that you will always protect this woman/man with your
utmost care / That you will honour and cherish her/him in sickness
and in health / For richer for poorer and in all things you will be to
her/him a faithful, loving husband/wife?
- E:**will you love honour and cherish in good times and in bad /
do you promise to stay true to her/him for the rest of your lives?
- F:** I promise to be honest with you / to be sensitive to your needs / to
support and love you / and cherish you always / I choose to spend my
life with you
- G:** Your own vows drafted personally and delivered to one another without
repeating after the registrar. Prompt cards/written notes are
recommended. A copy of your vows should be submitted in advance
for our information.

The “I do” alternative

If you are nervous about speaking before your guests and anticipate the repetition of the declarations will be a problem for you, the Registrar could read the declarations to you in the form of a question, to which you may answer simply “I do”.

Additional ceremony elements

Should you wish to incorporate traditional elements such as unity candles, unity sand blending etc to your ceremony please discuss this with the Registrar in advance.

Exchange of Rings

Usual Wording

Their commitment made to each other, our couple have chosen to give and receive wedding ring(s) as a symbol of the marriage they now enter.

..... place the ring over finger and repeat after me

This ring is given / as a token of the declarations (and vows) / I have made here today

..... place the ring over finger and repeat after me

This ring is given / as a token of the declarations (and vows) / I have made here today

Optional Wording (multiple or merged options are acceptable)

- A:** Traditionally, the passage to the status of being married is marked by the exchange of rings. These rings are a symbol of the unbroken circle of love freely given, they like your love has no beginning and no end. May these rings always remind you of the declarations you have made to each other.
- B:** I give you this ring as a sign of our marriage /
All that I am, I give to you / all that I have, I share with you /
For the whole of our life together
- C:** I give you this ring / as a token of my love /
and as a symbol of our marriage today
- D:** I give you this ring as a symbol of my love /
Let it be a reminder that I am always by your side /
As I join my life to yours as your friend and husband/wife
- E:** With this ring I offer you my hand my heart and my love always
- F:** This ring is given as a pledge of my everlasting love for you
- G:** As a circle these rings know no end. May your love for each other be endless and may the rings remind you of today and the joy you feel in this moment.
- H:** Your own drafted wording, to use at the ring exchange



Pronouncement*

Usual Wording

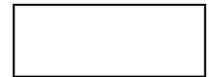
You have now both entered a solemn and binding contract and by virtue of these declarations made in my presence and in the presence of your witnesses.

I have pleasure in pronouncing you husband/wife and husband/wife.

You may kiss.

Optional Wording

- A:** I have pleasure in pronouncing you husband/wife and husband/wife, partners in marriage from this day onwards - You may kiss.
- B:** By virtue of the declarations (and vows) made in my presence as an authorised Registrar/Assistant Registrar of Marriages, before these witnesses, I declare you and you are now joined together in matrimony in accordance with law - You may kiss.
- C:** May your home be a haven and your relationship be truthful and honest. May all your hopes be fulfilled and your life together be one of love and contentment.
- D:** Today we celebrate your union. May you have each others love unconditionally for the rest of your lives.
- E:** May the challenges life throws at you make your marriage stronger. May you always be each others best friend and greatest love.
- F:** Your own drafted wording, to use at the pronouncement.



Your Civil Marriage Ceremony in Edinburgh

Name _____ & Name _____

Venue _____ Date _____

*Please complete and return with your Marriage Notice Forms if possible, but not less than **14 days** prior to your wedding, only if you wish to make additions/amendments.*

Welcome / Introduction

A: B: C: D: E:

F: Your own wording

Identification & Declarations to be made

A: B: C: D:

Definition of marriage (multiple or merged options are acceptable)

A: B: C: D: E: F: G:

H: Your own wording

Paperwork preliminaries

A: Your own wording

Continued overleaf /

Consent to Declarations

A: B: C: D:

E: Your own wording

Declarations* / VOWS (multiple or merged options are acceptable)

A: B: C: D: E: F:

G: Your own wording

The "I do" Alternative

Additional
elements

Please state

Exchange of Rings (multiple or merged options are acceptable)

A: B: C: D: E: F: G:

H: Your own wording

Pronouncement*

A: B: C: D: E:

F: Your own wording

