**Civil Partnership**

*Option to play music as your guests wait for your ceremony to begin (approx. 15 minutes). Music can be live (for example you could make arrangements for a small choir or soloist to sing, a string quartet to play or a harpist to perform) or recorded (in which case you may like to create a play list of contemporary songs, classical music or the scores to your favourite films).*

Registrar announces start of ceremony.

*Would you like to enter the ceremony room together or have a more traditional entrance with one of you waiting for the other? Would you like anyone to accompany you, for example parent/s. Would you like a particular piece of music to be played or would you prefer to enter the room more informally to a round of applause?*

Good morning/afternoon everyone. On behalf of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I would like to welcome you to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I am the Deputy Superintendent Registrar, of the City of Westminster. I have the privilege of conducting today’s ceremony, alongside my colleague \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who will be creating the legal record of this civil partnership.

For \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it is with a real sense of pride that they stand here today to honour their relationship, and it is with a deep sense of gratitude that they reflect back on all they have already shared together. They each feel extremely fortunate to have found a partner who so richly enhances every aspect of their life, and your support today in celebrating their relationship means the world to them.

*Suitable place to incorporate a summary of your relationship’s progression to civil partnership (suggested length 3 minutes or less). You may like to include: when and where you met, shared experiences, and significant occurrences, such as the birth of children/blending of families. For example: “As many of you know, A and B’s love story has been twenty years in the making! They met at university and though for A it was love at first sight, for B it wouldn’t be until they reconnected at their 10 year reunion that he realised he had found his Mr Right.“*

*Suitable place for a reading (suggested length 3 minutes or less). This could be a favourite childhood poem, extract from a book, quote or song lyrics about love, or poem written especially for the day about the two of you.*

*Readings (and music) must be non-religious.*

Civil partnership has its foundings in equality. Its very roots are grounded in fairness, in respect, and in consideration for others. It is a shared ideology of rooting their own relationship in these same principles that has lead \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to choose civil partnership, as the means for them to legally recognise their lifelong intent to be equal partners in a secure, committed and loving relationship.

*Suitable place for a second reading (up to 3 minutes in length)*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I am now going to ask you bothto make a sincere and truthful declaration that to the best of your knowledge there is no lawful impediment why you should not be joined in civil partnership.

In turn, please repeat after me:

I declare that I know - of no legal reason - why we may not register - as each other’s Civil Partner.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, today we mark the strength of your relationship and the depth of your commitment to one another. I ask you now to each confirm your intent to join in civil partnership.

In turn, please repeat after me:

# I\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ take you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_to be my lifelong partner. I promise to trust you and be honest with you - to stand by you and support you – now and always.

*Option to include personal vows (suggested length 3 minutes or less). These can be romantic and earnest or humorous but heartfelt. Please either:*

* *Have these written on a piece of card for you to read from if you would like to surprise one another on the day. For example, “I am so grateful you came into my life because…”*
* *Include them within this script if you would like your registrar to ask you to confirm your vows. For example, “Will you both continue to prioritise spending time as a family and save even faster for that trip to Disneyworld you have promised \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?”*

*“We will!”*

* *Email them separately to the register office if you would like to surprise each other by writing one another’s vows. For example, “Do you A promise to take B a cup of tea in bed every morning?” - written by B.*

*“Do you B promise to let A watch football undisturbed without hoovering in the background?” - written by A.*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ we have now come to the giving of rings. These rings are a physical representation of the bond of love that you share, and of the faith you place in one another.

In turn, please repeat after me:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , I give you this ring – in recognition of all that you mean to me. – I promise to cherish and care for you – for the rest of our lives.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the moment has now come for you to sign the civil partnership schedule. Upon signing this document, you will legally become civil partners. If I could now invite forward your witnesses, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to also sign.

*Signing of the civil partnership schedule (approx. 5 mins). Option to play music as you and your witnesses sign.*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ today’s ceremony has affirmed the deep trust, respect, understanding and friendship that binds you together. We hope that you will think back on today often and be reminded of the strength of the commitment you have made to each other. May the love you have for one another grow ever stronger throughout the years to come.

It is with the greatest of pleasure I now declare you civil partners!

*Option to play a final song as you exit the ceremony room, followed by your guests.*