**Modern**

*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 love songs, classical traditional wedding 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, sibling/s, bridesmaids, groomsmen? 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 Ladies and Gentlemen. *Please let us know if you would prefer a gender-neutral greeting.* My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Deputy Superintendent Registrar conducting the ceremony today and with me is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Registrar.

On behalf of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to thank all of you for coming here to witness their marriage. It means a great deal to them that you are here with them to share in their happiness today.

Marriage is a lifelong promise, based on love. By getting married, two people make a permanent commitment to one another. They promise to share their lives together and they promise to overcome whatever difficulties they may face.

For \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ being together gives the future both meaning and purpose; it means that dreams and hopes can become a reality and the joys and sorrows of life can be shared.

*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/marriage, or poem written especially for the day about the two of you. Readings (and music) must be non-religious.*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, today you will exchange vows to make permanent that commitment and unite you as husband and wife. The words you will say to each other are a formal and public pledge of your love for each other.

*The following wording in* **bold font** *cannot be altered.*

But before you are joined in matrimony, it is my duty to remind you both of the solemn and binding character of the ceremony of marriage. **Marriage in this country means the union of two people, voluntarily entered into for life, to the exclusion of all others.**

And now I’m going to ask each of you, in turn, to declare that you know of no legal reason why you may not marry each other.

# I declare – that I know of no legal reason – why I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, may not be joined in marriage – to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

You have gathered your family and friends about you to join in your celebration, so I ask you now in their presence:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, will you take \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to be your wife/husband and will you remain faithful to her/him for the rest of your life together?

*Answer:* I will

*Repeat for Bride/Groom*

*Option to include personal vows (suggested length 3 minutes or less for each of you). 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.*

*Suitable place for a second reading (suggested length 3 minutes or less)*

Ladies and gentlemen, the time has come for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to make their marriage vows and exchange rings, in your presence.

Please repeat after me:

I give you this ring ­– as a token of my love – and our commitment to each other, – and in the presence of our family and friends, – **I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – take you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – to be my wedded wife/husband**, – to love and to cherish – for the rest of our lives together.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, you have both made the declarations prescribed by law and you have made solemn promises to each other, symbolised by the exchange of rings and in the presence of your guests gathered here today. May the love and commitment you have shown today stay with you in your life together.

It now gives me great pleasure to declare that you are husband and wife/wife and wife/husband and husband together. *Please let us know if you would prefer a gender-neutral declaration.* Congratulations to you both!

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

Registrar’s final words of well wishes.

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