

# Civil Union Ceremony

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*(This ceremony takes 8-15 minutes, depending upon whether you have unity candles, Rose ceremony, other readings etc.)*

**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 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in their civil union.**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, I would ask that you both remember to treat yourself and each other with **respect**, and remind yourself often of what brought you together today. Give the highest priority to the **tenderness, gentleness and kindness** that your partnership deserves. When frustration and difficulty assail your marriage - as they do to every relationship at one time or another - focus on what still seems right between you, not only the part that seems wrong. This way, when clouds of trouble hide the sun in your lives and you lose sight of it for a moment, you can remember that the sun is still there. And if each of you will take **responsibility** for the **quality** of your life together, it will be marked by **abundance** and **delight**.

## VOWS

*(Vows used unless other vows are wished. You may change the vows as you wish or write your own.)*

(Partner 1 ) \_\_\_\_\_, do you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your life-partner? ("I do") Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect her/him, forsaking all others and holding only unto her/him forevermore? ("I do")

(Partner 2) \_\_\_\_\_, do you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your life-partner? ("I do") Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect him/her, forsaking all others and holding only unto him/her forevermore? ("I do")

## REPEATED VOWS

*(If rings are exchanged each does so before repeating the following vows - unless you wish other vows or do not wish to repeat vows. It is not required that a couple exchange rings.)*

(Partner 1) I \_\_\_\_\_, take thee, \_\_\_\_\_ to be my life-partner- To have and to hold, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, in joy and sorrow and I promise my love to you.

*If Rings are exchanged - ("With this ring, I take you as my life-partner, for as long as we both shall live")*

(Partner 2 ) I \_\_\_\_\_, take thee \_\_\_\_\_, to be my life-partner. To have and to hold, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, in joy and sorrow, and I promise My love to you.

**If Rings are exchanged - ("With this ring, I take you as my life-partner, for as long as we both shall live.")**

*(If there are children of either couple, sometimes couples will give a ring or small gift such as a necklace or ring to the child and say a short statement that they also are now part of the new family. I believe it very*

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*important to mention children's names in the ceremony, If you have minor children coming into the marriage, please provide their names so I will mention them as is appropriate.)*

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ as the two of you come into this partnership uniting you as life-partners, and as you this day affirm your faith and love for one another, I would ask that you always remember to cherish each other as special and unique individuals, that you respect the thoughts, ideas and suggestions of one another. Be able to forgive, do not hold grudges, and live each day that you may share it together - as from this day forward you shall be each other's home, comfort and refuge, your union strengthened by your love and respect for each other.

Just as two threads woven in opposite directions will form a most beautiful tapestry, so too can your two lives merged together make a beautiful union. To make your relationship work will take **love**. This is the core of your union and why you are here today. It will take **trust**, to know in your hearts that you truly want the best for each other. It will take **dedication**, to stay open to one another - and to **learn** and grow together. It will take **faith**, to go forward together without knowing exactly what the future brings. And it will take **commitment**, to hold true to the journey you both pledge today to share together.

*(If unity candles are used - optional. If the [Rose Ceremony](#) is used, it is placed after the unity candle ceremony or in place of it.)*

## **UNITY CANDLE CEREMONY** *(this is not required)*

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, the two separate candles symbolise your separate lives, separate families and separate sets of friends. I ask that each of you take one of the lit candles and that together you light the center candle.

The individual candles represent your lives before today. Lighting the center candle represents that your two lives are now joined to one light, and represents the joining together of your two families and sets of friends to one.

*(For couples who are adding music to the ceremony, it is usually placed either here or after the vows are repeated earlier.)*

*(THE ROSE CEREMONY MAY BE ADDED AT THIS POINT IF YOU WISH.)*

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, in so much as the two of you have agreed to live together in your civil union, have promised your love for each other by these vows, the joining of your hands and the giving of these rings, I now declare you to be life-partners.

Congratulations, you may seal your union with a kiss.

It is my privilege to present to you. \_\_\_\_\_ as partners in life together

*(If a large gathering, after the wedding party has exited, I will thank all for coming on your behalf and make any reception announcements that you wish.)*

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