



Civil Marriage Ceremony – “C”

Welcome! My name is _____ and I will be your officiant for today’s wedding. We would ask that everyone turn their phones to silent.

Please refrain from taking photos during the ceremony. You will be able to take lots of photos after the ceremony and during the signing.

{Celebrant #1 First Name} and **{Celebrant #2 First Name}** have chosen to invite you here today to share with them as they make their vows to one another.

Optional – Giving Away:

{Name of person giving away}, do you give this couple your blessing this day and promise to honour and respect them in their marriage?

{Celebrant #1 First Name} and **{Celebrant #2 First Name}**, nothing is easier than saying words. Nothing is more difficult than living those words day after day. What you promise today must be renewed and redecided tomorrow and then again each day that stretches out before you. At the end of this ceremony, legally you will be **{wife or husband or spouse or partner}**, but still you must decide every day that you want to be married.

Declarations of Eligibility:

Both Celebrants repeat this after the officiant, individually:

"I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I may not be joined in matrimony to **{Celebrant Full Name}**."

Hand Ceremony

{Celebrant #1 First Name} and **{Celebrant #2 First Name}** first join your right palms, and then your left palms. This forms an infinity symbol with your hands, which symbolizes a love that will go on forever.

These are the hands of your best friend, strong and full of love for you, that are holding yours on your wedding day as you promise to love each other today, tomorrow, and forever.

These are the hands that will work alongside your hands as together you build your future.

These are the hands that will love you and cherish you through the years, and with the slightest touch will comfort you like no other.

These are the hands that will hold you when fear or grief overwhelms you.

These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it.

These are the hands that will help you to hold your family as one.

And lastly, these are the hands that, even when wrinkled and aged, will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch.

Our hope for you today is that both of you will use these hands to build a marriage where all your dreams come true.

Vows:

Both Celebrants repeat this after the officiant,
individually:

"I call upon these persons here present to witness that I **{Celebrant #1 Full Name}** do take you **{Celebrant #2 Full Name}** to be my lawful wedded **{wife or husband or spouse or partner}**." To have to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health; in joy and in sorrow; to love and to cherish and to be faithful to you alone, as long as we both shall live.

Optional - Rings:

Two choices of wording for the rings (can be both):

A: "I give you this ring that you may wear it as a symbol of the vows we have made this day."

B: “With this ring, I thee wed. I shall love, honour, and cherish thee, and this ring shall be the symbol of my love.”

Declaration by Officiant:

Having conscientiously declared your vows to each other before these witnesses, it is my privilege that I, **{Officiant}**, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Marriage Act, do hereby pronounce you **{Celebrant #1 Full Name}** and **{Celebrant #2 Full Name}** to be married.

We wish you long life, happiness and prosperity. May the vows you made to each other today sustain you forever.

You may now choose to seal your vows with a kiss.

Congratulations!