



Hamilton

Civil Marriage Ceremony

Option #1

THE PURPOSE

"We are gathered together to witness the formal joining of _____ and _____ in legal matrimony according to the custom and law prevailing by the Government of the Province of Ontario.

Marriage is not to be entered upon thoughtlessly or irresponsibly but with a due and serious understanding and appreciation of the ends for which it is contracted. Therefore, if there is anyone present who can show just cause why these two persons may not be lawfully joined together in matrimony, they should now declare it or hereafter remain silent.

_____ and _____, you have made it known that you want to be joined in marriage and no one has shown any valid reason why you may not. If either of you know of any lawful impediment why you should not be married, you are now to declare it.

Officiant to 1st person: Repeat after me please:

"I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, _____, may not be joined in matrimony to _____".

Officiant to 2nd person: Repeat after me please:

"I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, _____, may not be joined in matrimony to _____".

If either person is escorted forward, Officiant states:

"Who is it that gives this _____ (man/woman/these individuals) in marriage?"

Answer "I/we do". (father, mother, children, relatives, etc.)

DECLARATION OF INTENT AND VOWS

"Would you please face each other, join hands and repeat after me"

Officiant to 1st person:

"I call upon these persons here present to witness that I, _____ do take you, _____ to be my lawful wedded _____ (wife/husband/partner)"

Officiant to 2nd person:

"I call upon these persons here present to witness that I, _____ do take you, _____ to be my lawful wedded _____ (wife/husband/partner)"

EXCHANGE OF RINGS

"This ring is a symbol of your marriage and a symbol of your love and life together."

Officiant to 1st person:

Please place this ring on the third finger of _____'s left hand saying after me:

"With this ring, I thee wed. I shall love, honour and cherish thee and this ring is the symbol of my love."

"This ring is a symbol of your marriage and a symbol of your love and life together."

Officiant to 2nd person:

Please place this ring on the third finger of _____'s left hand saying after me:

"With this ring, I thee wed. I shall love, honour and cherish thee and this ring is the symbol of my love."

As you wear these rings may you find them reminders of an endless love which may grow more meaningful with each passing day.

PRONOUNCEMENT

_____ and _____ have pledged themselves to each other and have declared this symbolically by their vows and the exchange of rings.

I, _____, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the *Ontario Marriage Act*, do hereby pronounce you _____ and _____ to be _____ (husband and wife, partners in life/married).

You may exchange a kiss as a token of your joy.

SIGNING OF THE REGISTER

At this time, the wedded parties and their witnesses will sign the Official Marriage Register.

CEREMONY CONCLUSION

I wish you a long life, happiness, prosperity and may the vows you have made to each other today, sustain you forever.

Officiant: May I introduce to you the married couple.

Please note: Bolded text is mandatory for the ceremony