

Lincolnshire Marriage Ceremony - Sample Script

BEFORE THE CEREMONY

- Any notices about photographs, confetti, social media etc. will be read before the entry of the bride/groom/couple.
- Guests asked to stand for entry of bride/groom/couple.

START OF THE CEREMONY

Good Morning/Afternoon, On behalf of <Couples First Names> I would like to welcome you all to <Venue> today on this happy occasion as we gather to celebrate their marriage.

I should like to begin by introducing my colleague <Registrar> who is the registrar for today and whose task it is to complete the schedule and register the marriage.

My name is <Deputy Superintendent Registrar> and it will be my privilege and pleasure to conduct the ceremony here today.

PRESENTATION OF THE COUPLE

Optional:

May I ask who brings <Party 1 First Name> to be married here today?

Response

Optional:

May I ask who brings <Party 2 First Name> to be married here today?

Response

The place in which you are now met has been duly sanctioned according to the law for the celebration of marriages.

The ceremony will be conducted in accordance with the civil law of this country which requires both <Couples First Names> to declare their freedom to marry before they contract their marriage before their witnesses.

<Couples First Names> your family and friends are celebrating with you today, and will join with you in the solemnisation of your marriage. They will witness your vows and promises, and support you in your future life together.

< We will insert any personal information or history here >

Marriage is a promise made between two people who love one another and who wish to share their future lives together.

It calls for mutual respect, honesty, patience and of course, a good sense of humour!

It will provide each of you with the love, the support, the help and the comfort you may need, both in times of joy and in times of difficulty.

A good partner in such a marriage will be loving, caring and above all, a best friend.

<Couples First Names> are making a public declaration of their love and commitment to one another.

However, if any person knows of any lawful impediment to this marriage, they should declare it now.

< First Reading (Optional) >

<Couples First Names> before you are joined in matrimony, I have to remind you of the solemn and binding character of the vows you are about to make.

Marriage, according to the law in this country, is the union of two people, voluntarily entered into for life, to the exclusion of all others.

I now require each of you in turn to make a legal declaration of your freedom to marry one another.

DECLARATORY WORDS

(both parties should the same options – these words cannot be altered)

- 1. If you are in agreement, please reply 'I am' to the following question. Are you (Name) free lawfully to marry (Name)?**
- 2. I declare / that I know of no legal reason / why I (Name) may not be joined in marriage / to (Name).**
- 3. I do solemnly declare / that I know not / of any lawful impediment / why I (Name) / may not be joined in matrimony / to (Name).**

We have now come to the solemn, but joyous moment when <Couples First Names> will be contracting their marriage before you, their witnesses and guests. Would the witnesses please come forward.

CONTRACTING WORDS

(each party will repeat the same option to each other)

- 1. I (Name)/take you (Name)/to be my wedded wife/husband.**
- 2. I (Name)/take thee (Name)/to be my wedded wife/husband.**
- 3. I call upon these persons here present/to witness that I (Name)/do take thee (Name)/to be my lawful wedded wife/husband.**

OPTIONAL VOWS

(each party to repeat the same option or provide personal vows to be included)

- 1. Today I choose to be your husband/wife./ I promise to love, treasure, comfort and respect you. / Day by day to walk by your side / in joy or in sorrow.**
- 2. I promise that I will make time for you / and support you in everything you do. / I will try to bring laughter into your life / and make you happy. / I pledge you my loyalty and friendship / for as long as I live.**
- 3. I promise to be true to you / to share my thoughts, my hopes and my dreams with you. / I promise to care for you with love and friendship, / to support and comfort you / to respect and cherish you / and to be faithful always. / These promises I make to you / for the rest of our lives together.**
- 4. I promise to give you the best of myself / and ask no more than you can give. / I promise to respect you / and to acknowledge that your interests are no less important than my own. / I promise to share with you my time and attention / to bring joy and happiness to our marriage. / I promise to share my thoughts, / my hopes and my dreams / as we build our lives together. / I promise to love you / through good times and bad / with all I have to give / in the only way I know how / – completely and forever.**
- 5. Your own personal vows if applicable**

EXCHANGE OF RINGS

(It's not a legal requirement to exchange wedding rings but many couples do opt for this.)

<Couples First Names> have chosen <Name of ringbearer> as their ringbearer today. It is part of a long tradition in this country that a marriage is sealed by the giving and receiving or exchanging of rings.

A wedding ring is an unbroken circle symbolising eternal unity without beginning or end. It is the outward sign of the love that exists between you. Let it always remind you of the commitment you have made here today.

- 1. I give you (accept) this ring / as a symbol of my love and affection / and as a lasting reminder of the promises we have made here today.**
- 2. This ring I give you (accept) as a symbol of our love/ and of the vows we have made here today./ I promise to care for you with love and friendship/ to support and comfort you/ to respect and cherish you/ and to be faithful always./ These promises I make to you for the rest of our lives together.**
- 3. I give this ring as my gift to you / wear it and think of me / and know that I love you.**

4. I (Name) take you (Name) to be my life partner and I give you (accept) this ring as a symbol of my love and affection.

5. Couple's own ring words

< Second Reading (Optional) >

<Couples First Names> you have made the commitment of marriage. The path you have chosen to travel may have challenges along the way, and from this day forward you will face them together.

We hope that the feelings of love that you have for each other will deepen and grow even stronger throughout the years to come.

You have given your marriage vows and personal promises to each other in my presence, in the presence of the Registrar and in front of your families and friends, so I am therefore delighted to announce that you are now lawfully joined together in marriage/as husband and wife/as husband and husband/as wife and wife.

CONGRATULATIONS

Signing of the marriage schedule

Ending of the Ceremony and Congratulations

Would everybody please stand. It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you...

(We will announce you out using whichever words you would like to use, this can be Mr & Mrs, Mr & Mr, Mrs & Mrs, etc, or just your first names, the choice is yours.)