

Civil Ceremony for Same Sex Marriage

We have come together today in this beautiful place to celebrate one of life's greatest moments, to witness the marriage of _____ and _____. The legal requirements of this state have been fulfilled, and the license for your marriage being present, I must ask of each party if you come of your own free will and accord.

_____, do you come to this union of your own free will, and with the intention of being faithful in marriage to _____ as long as you shall live? _____: I do.

_____, do you come to this union of your free will, and with the intention of being faithful in marriage to _____ as long as you shall live? _____: I do.

Would you hold hands and look into each other's eyes as you repeat your vows? _____, please repeat these words after me: In the presence of our family and friends,/ I _____ choose you _____ to be my life partner;/ To have and 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./ This is my solemn vow.

Now _____, please repeat after me: In the presence of our family and friends,/ I _____ choose you _____ to be my life partner;/ To have and 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./ This is my solemn vow.

Do you have the rings?

_____ AND _____, you have chosen rings as outward symbols of the commitment you make today.

From earliest times, the ring has been a symbol of wedded love. An unbroken and never-ending circle symbolizes a commitment to love that is also never ending.

_____, as you place the ring you have chosen on _____'s finger, please repeat these words to her:

In the pledge of the vow of marriage made between us, I offer you this ring. Let it be to you and me, and to all the world, the symbol of the covenant of marriage we have accepted.

_____, as you place the ring you have chosen on _____'s finger, please repeat these words to her:

In the pledge of the vow of marriage made between us, I offer you this ring. Let it be to you and me, and to all the world, the symbol of the covenant of marriage we have accepted.

We have come together in this place and we have heard the willingness of _____ and _____ to be joined in marriage. They have come of their own free will and in our hearing have made a covenant of faithfulness. They have given and received a ring as the seal of their promises. Therefore, by the power vested in me by the State of Ohio, I declare you married and partners for life.

I would like to end with the Benediction of the Apaches.

"Now you will feel no rain,
For each of you will shelter the other.
Now you will feel no cold,
For each of you will be warmth to the other.
Now there is no more loneliness for you,
For each of you will be companion to the other.
Now you are two bodies,
But there is only one Life before you.
Go now to your dwelling place,
To enter into the days of your togetherness.
And may your days be good and long upon the earth."

You may kiss your bride (Groom).

It is now my personal privilege and great joy to be the first one to introduce _____ and _____ as the newly married couple.

Partners in life... for life.