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**Wedding Vows, Promises  
and Legal Declarations**



## Legal Declarations

The following are examples of legal declarations.

The NAME you use doesn't have to be your full name, it can be just your first name, or simply the name you are known to your guests as, e.g. legal name John, but known as Jack, or legal name Katherine but known as Katie.

This is what you each must say legally...

I, NAME, accept you, NAME, in marriage.

But this can be extended if you wish...

I, NAME, solemnly and sincerely accept you, NAME, in marriage

OR

I, NAME, accept you, NAME, in marriage to be my lawfully wedded wife/husband

OR

I, NAME, accept you NAME, in marriage as my equal partner

OR

In the presence of our family and friends,  
I, NAME, solemnly and sincerely declare,  
That I accept you, NAME, in marriage,  
As my lawfully wedded wife/husband OR As my equal partner

## Personal Vows/Promises/Pledges

Most couples choose to say your personal promises (vows) to each other before the legal declarations (when you accept each other in marriage – see above!). You can write your own vows for that really personal touch, but that's definitely not for everyone! Have a look at the examples below as a starting point.

If you can't make up your mind, I can start you off with some of my favourites and we can simply adjust them to suit.

You've got a few options when it comes to saying your vows:

- Memorising them (almost nobody does this, and I wouldn't recommend it!)
- Reading them from a prompt card, which I'll make for you
- Repeating after me, a few words at a time (my most popular option)
- Saying 'I do' after I read each line, or saying 'I do' after the whole vows/promises have been read
- Saying 'we do' together after I've read some collective vows (the best option for very shy couples!)

1.

I, NAME, promise to love and cherish you, NAME, for the rest of your life. I will try to bring laughter to your life and make you happy. I will consider you in the decisions I have to make, and value your opinions.

Today I vow to be your (husband/wife/partner) for the rest of our lives.

2.

NAME, do you aspire to love, honour and respect NAME throughout the varying circumstances of your lives and to love him/her/them equally with your body, heart and mind?



Do you pledge to honour NAME's integrity, respect his/her/their privacy and care for his/her/their wellbeing?

Do you promise to consider NAME's needs in all your life decisions and ensure to the best of your ability that he/she/they is/are happy and content?

Do you aspire to learn from your shared experiences, and to build from them a full and loving marriage based on trust, respect and equality?

3.

NAME, will you take NAME to be your wedded husband/wife/partner, best friend and soul mate? Do you acknowledge your love for him/her/them and will you respect his/her/their individuality? Will you try to bring him/her/them happiness and laughter throughout your life, whatever your future together may hold?

4.

NAME and NAME, will you seek, as mature people, to have a loving marriage, allowing it and each other to change and develop, supporting each other in happiness and sorrows, health and illness?

"We will"

Will you seek to live together as equal and different individuals, and to recognise and accept each other's strengths and weaknesses?

"We will"

Will you seek to trust the ebbs and flows of your love, to offer your love without conditions, having faith that it will always return, and understanding that its nature may change?

"We will"

Will you seek always to learn from your shared experiences, and to build from them a full and caring friendship based on trust and on respect?

“We will”

5.

Today I marry my friend,  
The one I have laughed and cried with,  
The one I have learned from and shared with,  
The one I have chosen to support, encourage,  
And give myself to, through all the days  
Given us to share.  
Today I marry the one I love.

6.

Do you NAME, take NAME, as your one and only love and from this day forward promise to protect, cherish and honour him/her/them, during good times and bad, happiness and sadness, through all the days of your married life together?

7.

Do you,NAME,take NAME, to be your husband/wife/partner in life and one true love?  
Will you cherish your friendship and love him/her/them today, tomorrow, and forever?  
Will you trust and honour him/her/them?  
Will you laugh and cry with him/her/them?  
Will you love him/her/them faithfully  
Through the best and the worst,  
Through the difficult and the easy?  
Whatever may come will you always be there for him/her/them?  
And as you have given him/her/them your hand to hold  
Do you now give him/her/them your life to keep?



8.

NAME, I join my life with yours today  
Without hesitation and with an open and trusting heart.  
Whatever we may encounter,  
Let us encounter it together.  
Take this ring and with it my commitment  
To be the best husband/wife/partner I can be

9.

NAME, I promise to be your friend and partner,  
and to walk beside you always;  
to love you with all that I am as you love me;  
to support, respect and share with you in all of life's decisions,  
through joy and sadness, triumph and uncertainty, laughter and tears;  
to have you in my life every day for as long as we live.

10.

I love you with all my heart and I promise to be by your side always – to share the joy and laughter as well as the peace and companionship of being together. I will be there to support you through both the good times and the bad times. I will be your partner, your lover, your best friend/pal and your soul mate. You are my whole world and with you I am complete.

11.

NAME and NAME, do you aspire to love each other and to live together in a spirit of tolerance, mutual support and concern for each other's well being, sharing your responsibilities, your problems and your joys?

“Yes we do”

Do you aspire to help each other provide a loving and stable home for your children; to co-operate in bringing them up to be caring, honest and happy?

“Yes we do”

12.

Please repeat after me:

NAME, I promise to love you and to trust you; to be honest with you and to be faithful to you;

I promise to be a loving and supportive husband/partner to you; for as long as we both shall live.

I give you this ring as a token of my enduring love and support.

Please repeat after me:

NAME, I promise to love you and to trust you; to be honest with you and to be faithful to you;

I promise to be a loving and supportive wife/partner to you; for as long as we both shall live.

I give you this ring as a token of my enduring love and support

13.

NAME, will you have NAME to be your husband/wife/partner, to share your life with him/her/them, and do you pledge to love, honour and care for him/her/them in tenderness and affection through all the varying experiences of your life?

“I do”

14.

NAME, do you promise to cherish and care for NAME in sickness and in health, in hard times as well as good, for as long as you both shall live?

“I do”



15.

NAME, do you have NAME to be your husband/wife/partner, to share your life with him/her/them, to be honest and trusting, to communicate openly with him/her/them and do you promise that you will love, cherish and care for him/her/them with tenderness and affection all your life?

“I do”

16.

NAME, I acknowledge my love and respect for you.

You are my faithful partner in life; my one true love, my best friend.

I will miss you madly when you are far – and hold you close when you are near.

I will provide for your needs as best I can, and protect you from harm.

I promise to laugh with you – to cry with you.

To grow with your mind and spirit.

I will reason with you when reason works, and laugh with you when reason doesn't.

I will love you until the end of time and I give you this ring as a token of my love for you.

17.

Don't walk in front of me,

I may not follow.

Don't walk behind me,

I may not lead.

Walk beside me and be my friend.

18.

From this day forward,

You shall not walk alone.

My heart will be your shelter,

And my arms will be your home



19.

I, NAME, promise you, NAME, to be your best friend, to respect your individuality and always to try to understand any differences between us. I promise to trust you, to be honest with you and to bring you laughter throughout your life. I now ask everyone to witness that I have taken you to be my husband/wife/partner.

20.

Will you NAME take NAME to be your partner for life, to love and look after him/her/them and bring him/her/them happiness and laughter throughout your lives, whatever the future may hold, sharing your wholeness, your brokenness, your success and your failures?

21.

I, NAME, promise you, NAME, to love and cherish you always, in everything, and to stand beside you as your partner while we build our future and achieve our dreams together, to be your best friend, to respect your individuality and always to try to understand any differences between us. I promise to trust you, to be honest with you and to bring you laughter throughout your life. I now ask everyone to witness that I have asked you to be my partner.

Will you spend your life with me? "I will"

22.

I, NAME, promise you, NAME, to be your best friend, to respect your individuality and always to try to understand any differences between us. I promise to trust you, to be honest with you and to bring you laughter throughout your life. I promise to love and cherish you always, in everything, and to stand beside you as your partner while we build our future and achieve our dreams together.



I now ask everyone to witness that I will ask you to be my husband/wife/partner. I will love you and look after you and I will keep you happy throughout your life.

Will you take me as your wife/husband/partner and spend your life with me? "I will"

23.

I give my love to you, and will be open to yours in return.

I will always try to bring you laughter and happiness throughout our lives,

But will always be there to give you a hug when you need one,

In the presence of our family and friends,

I promise to respect you, look after you, love and enjoy you.

24.

Do you NAME and NAME, promise to love, honour and support each other?

To have and to hold, to tickle and to squeeze?

And to continue to bring happiness and laughter into each others' lives?

Do you, today, vow to be wife and husband/partners for the rest of your lives?

"We do"

25.

NAME please repeat after me:

I accept our strengths and weaknesses / and seek always to learn from our shared experiences / and to build from them a full and caring relationship / based on trust and on respect.

I promise to share my life with you / and be faithful to you / in mind, body and spirit.

I will be honest and open with you.

I will be there to listen to you, comfort you and support you.

I promise to share your joys and our responsibilities.

I give my love to you and will be open to your love in return. / I will respect and care for you / with tenderness and affection for all of my life, / whatever our future together may hold.

All that I am and all that I have, / I offer to you NAME, in love and in joy. / In the presence of our family and friends I ask you NAME, / if you will be my friend, lover and companion throughout my life?

26.

Do you love NAME with all your heart and soul?

Will you take NAME as your husband/wife/partner?

Will you continue to love him/her/them and share your life with him/her/them, the dark and the light?

Will you look after him/her/them, support and encourage him/her/them in all ways and bring him/her/them happiness and laughter?

27.

NAME, will you please repeat after me:

I give my love to you, and will be open to your love in return. /

I would like to share in your dreams and for you to share in mine; /

to give help when you need it, and to ask for help when in need; /

to support you in all your endeavours; /

In the presence of our family and friends, / I ask you, NAME, to be a friend, / companion and devoted husband/wife/partner / throughout my life.

28.

NAME and NAME, drawing on the trust you have placed in me, I ask you now to speak in truth to each other the words that you have written together.



I ask everyone here to witness that I, NAME, take you, NAME, to be my husband/wife/partner. I will love you and look after you. I will try to bring you happiness and laughter throughout your life, whatever our future together may hold.

I promise to love and respect you at all times, to enjoy our lives together, making our love grow, always being there to listen, comfort and enjoy you.

29.

NAME and NAME, will you take each other to be your life's partner? "We will"

Will you solemnly and sincerely promise to cherish, love and comfort each other, even when times are hard? "We will"

Will you respect, support and honour each other at all times? "We will"

Will you forever share friendship, fun, laughter and adventure together?  
"We will"

Will you be trusting, loyal and forgive easily for the rest of your lives?  
"We will"

Will you always remember these promises you've made to each other and remain true to them? "We will"

30.

NAME, you make me feel happy, relaxed and in love.

Your quiet confidence and inner strength helps me to feel safe and secure in a way I never knew was possible.

Your enthusiasm for, and love of, life makes me feel excited about our future together.

I love you and am deeply committed to being married to you.

31.

NAME, please now repeat after me:

NAME, I love you and would like to be with you for the rest of our journey down life's path.

I will respect, support and accompany you through the great and the not so good times.

I will love and trust you throughout our days.

I will help you through times of sorrow and pain.

I will laugh with you through times of joy and happiness.

I will support you in all that you wish to do and achieve.

And most of all I will love you with all my heart, always.

31.

NAME and NAME, please now repeat after me the words you have chosen to say to each other together:

I can promise all my heart's devotion;

A smile to chase away your tears of sorrow;

A love that's ever true and ever growing;

A hand to hold in yours through each tomorrow.

32.

I understand that always being relegated to sous chef is derogatory. You are capable of more than chopping vegetables.

I understand that you understand that being relegated to sous chef is derogatory. However, I also understand that in the event of a dinner party that is all I will be doing.

I understand that all household security is not my job. I could remember to lock the doors occasionally.



I understand that you understand that all household security is not your job. However, I also understand that you will never lock the back door.

I understand that the alarm clock is not your responsibility and that I could occasionally set it or even have it on my side of the bed.

I understand that you understand the alarm clock is not my responsibility. However I also understand that if I don't set it, it won't go off.

I understand that you will sometimes appear to be ill and I will try to remember that sometimes you actually will be ill.

I understand that you understand I will actually sometimes be ill. However I also understand that you will only understand if the illness lasts no more than one day.

33.

Today, we reaffirm our commitment to each other as beloveds and partners in marriage.

We continue to strive to be sensitive to each other's needs, to be open and understanding with each other, and to share our thoughts, our feelings, and our experiences with each other.

We renew our promise to try always to bring out the qualities of forgiveness, compassion, and integrity in ourselves and in each other.

We continue to cherish each other's uniqueness.

We continue to share in life's joys and remain steadfast and comfort each other through life's sorrows.

34.

NAME, I take you to be my lawfully wedded husband/wife/partner.

Before these witnesses I vow to love you and care for you  
as long as we both shall live.

I take you, with all your faults and strengths,  
as I offer myself to you

with all my faults and strengths.

I will help you when you need help, and  
turn to you when I need help.

35.

I choose you as the person with whom I will spend my life.

I NAME, take you NAME, to be my husband/wife/partner.

To have and to hold, in sickness and in health,  
for richer or for poorer, and

I promise my love to you forever more

36.

I love you. You are my best friend.

Today I give myself to you in marriage.

I promise to encourage and inspire you, to laugh with you,  
and to comfort you in times of sorrow and struggle.

I promise to love you in good times and in bad,  
when life seems easy and when it seems hard,  
when our love is simple, and when it is an effort.

I promise to cherish you, and to always hold you in highest regard



These things I give to you today, and all the days of our life.

37.

We pledge to each other to be loving friends and partners in marriage.

To talk and to listen, to trust and appreciate one another; to respect and cherish each other's uniqueness; and to support, comfort and strengthen each other through life's joys and sorrows.

We promise to share hopes, thoughts and dreams as we build our lives together.

May our lives be ever intertwined, our love keeping us together.

We will build a home that is compassionate to all, full of respect and honor for others and each other.

May our home be forever filled with peace, happiness and love.

38.

Today I will marry my friend,  
the one I will live with, dream with and love.

I take you to be my husband/wife/partner.

From this day forward I will cherish you,  
I will look with joy down the path of our tomorrow's  
knowing we will walk it together side by side,  
hand in hand and heart to heart.

39.

I take you to be my partner.

To have and to hold from this day forward.

I give to you my unending love and devotion.

I promise to be true to you, to cherish you, and to share my thoughts,



hopes and dreams with you. I look forward to spending the rest of my life with you, my best friend. I will love you forever.

40.

I take you to be my partner.

To have and to hold from this day forward.

I give to you my unending love and devotion.

I promise to be true to you, to cherish you, and to share my thoughts, hopes, and dreams with you.

I look forward to spending the rest of my life with you my best friend. I will love you forever.

41.

I promise to be there when you need me,  
to fill your days with sunshine,  
to comfort you and encourage you,  
to help you reach your goals,  
to be your best friend ever and to  
love you all my life with all my heart.

42.

All that I am and all that I have, I offer to you in love and in joy.  
From this day forward I will love and comfort you, hold you close,  
prize you above all others, and remain faithful to you  
all the days of our lives.



43.

I will laugh with you in times of joy  
and comfort you in times of sorrow.

I will share in your dreams and support you  
as you strive to achieve your goals.

I will listen to you with compassion and understanding,  
and speak to you with encouragement.

I promise to create a life for us  
of unexpected and strange adventures.

In sickness and in health

I promise to take care of you  
even when you've over indulged the night before!

Together, let us build a home  
filled with learning, laughter and light  
shared freely with all who may visit there.

Let us be partners, friends and lovers  
today and all of the days that follow.

### **Vows for Marriage Later in Life**

I offer you not the "summer of my life" but the autumn, brisk and vibrant.

I promise to be a companion worthy of your precious friendship.

I pledge you compassion in good times and bad;  
encouragement in sickness and health.

It is my intent that our life together include our  
large circle of friends and loving families.

We'll cherish the memories of our individual pasts;  
and create our new life as we go now together.

### **Vows for an Intercultural Marriage**

Our love has opened windows to the worlds we lived in as children.  
I have found profound respect for your heritage; but, I am not part of it.  
We have vowed to live our adult lives together.  
Our marriage will be a new creation.  
Now I promise to build bridges of understanding and share  
the best of myself with your family, your friends and you.

### **Vows for Remarriage**

Since I have found you, I have found a new life.  
The decision to commit to share that life with you  
is one I make happily and with full confidence in our love.  
Secure in the knowledge that you will be my constant friend,  
my faithful partner in life, and my one true love.  
On this special day, I give to you in the presence of family and all  
these witnesses my pledge to stay by your side,  
in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, as well as  
through the good times and the bad.  
I promise to love you without reservation,  
comfort you in times of distress,  
encourage you to achieve all of your goals,  
laugh with you and cry with you,  
grow with you in mind and spirit,



always be open and honest with you,  
and cherish you for as long as we both shall live.