

Wedding Ceremony Structure

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Thanking guests, honoring loved ones, requests from the bride and groom

Prayer, Readings, Songs

A few moments of prayer, reciting of favorite poetry, bible versus, excerpts, etc., Performance of songs, or special presentations

Sentiments on Love, Partnership and Marriage. Anecdotes

The couple's love story, qualities the couple possess, the meaning of marriage and the specific strengths of the couple.

Declaration of Intent

The "I do's" or "We do", Legal proposition for the contract of marriage

Exchange of Vows

Groom typically recites or presents first, but can go either way. You can write your own, copy someone else's, I can write them for you, or offer guidance as needed.

Exchange of Rings

This counts as a unity ritual, which is not necessary for legality, but typical in most ceremonies. Usually a "repeat after me" and can be phrased however you prefer.

Additional Rituals

If you wish to include additional unity rituals, such as arras or a lei ceremony, they would fit in here.

Reflection and/or Blessing

Closing sentiments and well wishes for your future together. Can include scripture readings, prayers, general warm wishes, or any other sentiment you wish to include.

Pronouncement and Kiss

"By the power vested in me..." legally required for establishing marriage, The kiss is optional.

Presentation of the Couple

Introduction of the couple as officially married is also legally required to establish marriage.

Recession

Wedding Party departs the ceremonial space

Signing the Marriage License

The officiant oversees the signing of the marriage license by one or two witnesses, provides signature to confirm officiality, and all parties may sign an honorary marriage certificate keepsake.