

Journeys of love

ORDER OF CEREMONY

CEREMONY STARTS PROCESSIONAL CELEBRANTS SPEECH A READING *THE MONITUM *DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE EXCHANGE OF VOWS	EXCHANGE OF RINGS PRONOUNCING THE COUPLE MARRIED SINGING THE LEGAL DOCUMENTS CLOSING REMARKS PRESENTING THE COUPLE AS MARRIED RECESSIONAL
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1. Ceremony starts by bringing together of the guests, celebrant takes the front with the groom, announces if photos are allowed, informs if a group photo will be taking place, asks guests to turn off phones.
2. Processional: guests asked to stand, music starts, children and bridal party enter, bride enters with escort
 - ♥ Giving away or presentation of the bride/partner, groom/partner steps forward to receive bride/partner.
 - ♥ handshakes, hugs, and kisses with parent(s) escort. Escort is asked to take a seat
 - ♥ guests are invited to take a seat.
3. Celebrants' speech: Welcome and introduction. What makes today so important in the life of this couple, the promise they are making to always be there for each other in front of friends and family. The commitment to each other.
4. The couples story: Provided by the couple that tells their journey and their love story.
5. If chosen a reading: Verses or poetry read by the celebrant, a friend, child, or family member.
6. ***The monitum:**
 - ♥ **I am duly authorised by law to solemnise marriages according to law.
Before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of these witnesses, I am to remind you of the solemn and binding nature of the relationship into which you are now about to enter.
Marriage according to law in Australia, is the union of two people to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.**
7. Asking: the celebrant asks if the couple are ready to be married. Couple answer with "we are" or "I do"
8. ***Declaration or marriage:** These words must be included in the ceremony, they are the minimum words that must be used, they must be exchanged by the couple. A couple may repeat after the celebrant or on a palm card. They can be read alone or added to the personal vow
 - ♥ **I call upon the persons here present to witness the I, A.B (or CD take thee, CD (or AB) to be my lawful wife (or husband, or spouse).**

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9. Exchange of personal vows: wedding vows written by the couple or adapted from vows from other sources.
10. Exchange of rings: the couple take turns giving each other rings or something to acknowledge their love followed by a few lines to show the commitment and what the exchange means to them.
11. Pronouncing the couple married: the celebrant announces the couple to be married. Using a statement like (in front of your closest family and friends it gives me great pleasure to pronounce you husband and wife) or chosen words by the couple followed by the statement YOU MAY KISS THE BRIDE, or YOU MAY SHARE YOUR FIRST KISS AS A COUPLE.
12. Signing the legal documents: The celebrant announces to the guests that the legal part of the wedding will now take place. Asks the guests to be patient and please refrain from congratulating the couple until the wedding is complete. The couple and two witnesses sign the, Certificates of Marriage, and the ceremonial Marriage Certificate.
13. Closing remarks: important announcements for the guests
 - ♥ Inform guests where they are to go next, where and what time the reception starts.
 - ♥ Announces if the couple would like a group photo
 - ♥ Reminds the guests to shower the couple with confetti or an alternative
 - ♥ On behalf of the happy couple, thank everyone for coming.
14. Presenting the married couple: The celebrant congratulates the couple and introduces them in the agreed way. i.e. it now give me pleasure to present for the first time _____ and _____ as husband and wife or an alternative i.e. (Mr and Mrs _____)
15. Recessional: The couple now leaves the ceremony area via the bridal aisle; the wedding parties follow in pairs starting with the best man and the head bride's maid/maid of honor

***Parts 6 and 7 must be included in the ceremony and cannot be changed as they are the legal components.**

To make your wedding ceremony perfect for you. You may include all of the other elements or just the ones that will make your wedding ceremony just right for you.

The most important thing to remember is that it is your wedding and your wedding ceremony so you should have exactly what you want.

XXX

Lesley 😊