



MARRIAGE CEREMONY INFORMATION

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ENGAGEMENT

Your Marriage Ceremony is YOURS – apart from a few legal requirements prior, during and after the ceremony, I believe there are no rules. The legal requirements set the Marriage Ceremony apart from a Commitment or Vow renewal ceremony.

My aim is to guide you through the legal process so you both have a positive and memorable experience exchanging vows and solemnising your commitment to each other, to become married under Australian law.

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT ME

Why did I become a Marriage Celebrant? When same-sex marriage was legalised in Australia on 9th December 2017 (8 days before my own 23rd wedding anniversary), I had a fleeting thought that I would feel privileged to be an officiant of such an important union between any two people who want to lawfully confirm their love for one another. At the time, my life was busy supporting my husband and two daughters pursuing their academic careers and the opportunity was not to be.

However, in recent times, my youngest daughter asked if I would officiate her marriage to her lifelong love – what could I say – the time was right, and I've never looked back.

CO-DELIVERING CEREMONIES

I love working in a team. Together with yourselves and your chosen 'Ceremony Facilitator' (ie Religious Minister, friend, family member, MC etc), I will fit in and act as the official Civil Celebrant to ensure all the legal requirements for your marriage are covered. These include preparing all documentation including assisting you complete the *Notice of Intention to Marry* (NOIM) at least 31 days prior to the wedding ceremony; attending your ceremony and at the time chosen by you and your Ceremony Facilitator, step up to address you both and deliver the "Monitum" followed by observing you deliver your legal vows; facilitating the signing of the Marriage Certificates (x3) with you and your two witnesses during the ceremony and finally, lodging all completed documentation to the relevant Government departments after the ceremony.



TYPICAL MARRIAGE CEREMONY ELEMENTS

The elements listed below are a guide only and can be adapted to suit your needs and preferences. Apart from the **steps highlighted***, nothing is set in concrete. The order can be changed to your liking. Consider the following:

- How long do you want the ceremony to be?
- You do not have to have all of the elements listed.
- You might have multiple people involved delivering various elements of the ceremony, not just the Ceremony Facilitator.

1. Housekeeping

Before the ceremony commences, the Ceremony Facilitator or Celebrant will call the guests attention and guide them on any housekeeping as requested by the couple.

2. Processional

When the ceremony commences, usually one member of the bridal party will 'walk down the aisle'. Alternatively, you can walk together, you might even already be standing at the alter together prior to guests arriving, or choose any way you want, to indicate to your guests the ceremony has commenced.

3. Positioning

Consider where the bridal party and Ceremony Facilitator stand/sit during the ceremony.

4. Welcoming

The Ceremony Facilitator or Celebrant will welcome family and friends and introduce themselves. If the Celebrant is delivering the welcoming, at this point, they may read the ***Monitum** (see below point 8).

5. Giving Away

A special person to the couple present one member of the bridal party to the other – alternatively, a special person to the couple can deliver on behalf of the guests a “community vow of support”, “parents blessing” etc.

6. Introduction

Ceremony Facilitator speaks about the couple's commitment to each other and what marriage means to them.

7. Reading

A special guest/member of the bridal party read a poem/reading showing support of the marriage.

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8. *Monitum* (mandatory)

Read by the Celebrant (and potentially at the commencement of the ceremony)

"I am duly authorised by law to solemnize 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."

9. The Asking

Usually asked by the Ceremony Facilitator however, the Celebrant can also deliver this:

"Do you <insert name> present yourself here today to be joined in marriage with <insert name>, promising to be faithful and honest with her/him/them as long as you both may live?"

Each person says:

"I do"

10. *Legal Vows* (mandatory)

To be spoken by each person, one at a time – this can be included any time in your additional vows as long as it is said out loud by each person being married and heard by the Celebrant attending at the ceremony:

"I call upon the persons here present to witness that I, A.B. (or C.D.), take thee, C.D. (or A.B.), to be my lawful wedded wife/husband/spouse)."

11. Vows (additional/personal)

This is the time when you can speak your own words to each other.

12. Ring exchange

Exchange rings/gifts with each other.

13. The Pronouncing

Think about how you want the Ceremony Facilitator to 'now pronounce you.....'

'Partners in marriage'

'Spouses by law'

'Husband and Wife'

'Dynamic Duo'

Other....

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14. Sealed with a kiss

Time to publicly show your affection for each other.

15. *Signing of the Register* (mandatory)

The Celebrant facilitates the couple and two witnesses to sign the official marriage documents.

16. Optional Ritual

Any ritual you would like to symbolise the occasion eg:

- Light a marriage candle
- Family unity ceremony
- Sand pouring
- Dove release
- Other

17. Congratulations and Presentation

How do you wish to be addressed and presented by the Ceremony Facilitator to the guests after the ceremony is complete?

- *Mr and Mrs*
- *Mr and Mr*
- *Mrs and Mrs*
- *Other*

18. Conclusion

The Ceremony Facilitator will confirm further details or instructions for guests for after the ceremony.

19. Recessional

Now the official steps are complete, how do you want to finish the ceremony? Do you want to greet guests as you 'walk back down the aisle' as a married couple? Confetti / rose petals / rice?