

B E L C L A Y T O N
C E L E B R A N C Y



Wedding Information Kit

BELCLAYTONCELEBRANCY.COM



Contents

WELCOME	1
A LITTLE BIT ABOUT ME	3
CEREMONY STRUCTURE	4
READINGS AND POEMS	11
MUSIC	13
RITUALS	14
THE SCRIPT QUESTIONNAIRE	15
1. WELCOME SCRIPT OPTIONS	19
2. WORDS ABOUT MARRIAGE OPTIONS	22
3. THE GIVING AWAY OPTIONS	24
4. THE ASKING OPTIONS	25
5. THE LEGAL VOWS	27
6. PERSONAL VOWS	28
7. RING EXCHANGE OPTIONS	29
8. THE PRONOUNCEMENT OF MARRIAGE	30
9. SIGNING OF THE REGISTER	31
10. FINAL WORDS	31
11. THE RECESSIONAL	31
HOW TO MAKE A COMPLAINT	32
MARRIAGE & EDUCATION SERVICES	33
HAPPILY EVER AFTER	34
CODE OF PRACTICE FOR MARRIAGE CELEBRANTS	36

Welcome

Congratulations on your Engagement and thank you for taking the time to contact me. What an exciting time of your lives this is.

As you have probably gathered by now, there are lots of options and choices to make when planning your wedding ceremony. I hope to make this a little easier for you by outlining in this wedding information kit, the key components to the ceremony.

Apart from the ceremony outline, I have included a few suggestions for poems/readings, songs, rituals that can be used if you would like to add those to your ceremony. However, these are just suggestions to give you an idea to get you thinking what you might like to include in your special ceremony.

Then you have the 'theme' of your special day to consider. Would you be preferring a formal traditional ceremony or perhaps a casual, no shoes required event? The choice is yours and I am here to fit in to whatever vibe you choose for this most memorable day.

1.

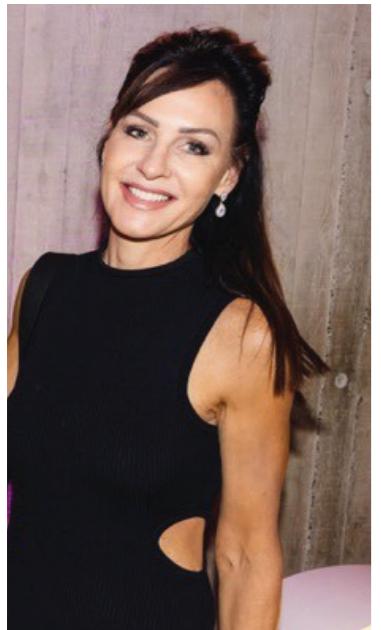


PLEASE TAKE YOU TIME TO READ THROUGH THIS INFORMATION & DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT ME TO CHAT ABOUT THE OPTIONS.

EMAIL BELCELEBRANCY@GMAIL.COM

PHONE 0410404720

A little about me.



I once read a quote, something along the lines of;
life is a university and my tombstone will be my degree.

This really resonated with me as that is exactly how I live my life, as a constant unfolding of life lessons.

Being a mother to 4 children before I turned 30, and later my number 5 (second time around now tween daughter, has given me a wealth of life experience!

I love conversation about life the universe and everything which led me to degrees in philosophy and sociology which I undertook from age 30 (because I obviously had too much time on my hands with 4 kids under 5 at the same time!)

I am particularly interested in Eastern philosophy which led me to yoga / Ayurveda and a love of INDIA. I have travelled there many times, even taking up a language degree in Hindi for a year stint because I don't do things in halves. My passion for this culture resulted in a successful 12-year entrepreneurial home-fragrance enterprise based around the luscious perfumes of India until recently when life had a new plan in store for me and I found myself really excited about the prospect of making a vocation around love.

3.

Ceremony Structure

Weddings today reflect the wishes of the couple enabling them to be held practically anywhere. Apart from the legal requirements you can structure the ceremony however you wish. However, the recently emerging trend in Australian weddings, is to have a traditionally structured ceremony, amongst a more casual environment, such as a beach wedding, an outback wedding, a garden wedding and so on. So below I have outlined the basic structure of the ceremony, of which you can situate this, in the setting of your choice.

4.

1.

Housekeeping

The Celebrant organises guests into their seating/ standing arrangements and advises of any requirements such as no phones, photos, where the toilets are and after ceremony instructions.

2.

The Procession

One party, (traditionally the groom) and his attendants wait at the end of an aisle, with the celebrant in front of the guests. The processional music begins (see examples below), and the second party, (traditionally the bride) is escorted by a specially chosen relative (traditionally her father).

They follow her attendants down an aisle to join her partner. The attendants take their places on either side of the couple ready for the ceremony.

A more modern way to enter is to have the couple walking down the aisle together symbolising that they are taking this next step together.

5.

3.

The Celebrant's Welcome

This is the part where the celebrant will welcome the family and guests for coming to the marriage ceremony of the couple. The celebrant will also introduce themselves and state that they are duly authorised by law to solemnise marriages according to the law - that part is a legal requirement.

6.

Readings, Poems & Rituals

5.

Introduction of the bridal couple and 'their story'

This is when the celebrant shares your story. It will be a script the celebrant formulates based on a separate questionnaire that is on page 15.

Once your story has been put into a script and approved, it will be used to share with the guests at this point of the ceremony.

4.

Acknowledgement of Guests

The celebrant now makes any special acknowledgements or recognition of guests unable to attend that you would like to give a special mention to.

Here you may like to choose a guest to stand alongside you both to do a reading. It can be a poem, a quote, the line of a song or whatever sums up your relationship. (A sample reading you will find on page 12).

Alternatively, or as well as, you may include a ritual at this stage. Anything that metaphorically sums up your relationship, your future wishes, can be created as a ritual. (A sample candle lighting ritual you will find on page 14).

7.

The Monitum

Now we come the legal aspect of the ceremony. This is when the celebrant stresses the seriousness of marriage using these words:

"Before you are married 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."

And then explains what marriage means in Australia using these words:

"Marriage, according to the law in Australia, is the union of two people to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life."

8.

The Asking

The celebrant will address you as the couple and publicly ask if you take each other to be husband/wife. Individually you can answer *"I do"* or, together you can both respond *"we do"*.

9.

The Exchange of Vows

There are personal vows and then there are legal vows. These are generally said one after the other.

Your personal vows can be anything that you want to say or promise to your partner at that moment; they can be as long or as short as you want them to be; they don't have to be the same as each other, and they should be meaningful to each other. (Some examples of vows on page 28).

The legal vows as follows must be spoken by each party:

"I call upon the persons here present to witness that I, (full name), take you, (full name), to be my lawful wedded wife/husband/partner in marriage."

10.

The Ring Exchange

Exchanging rings is a traditional ritual in a marriage ceremony. The celebrant will ask for the ring bearer to present the rings and ask each partner to place the ring on the finger of their husband/wife to be.

"I now pronounce you husband and wife".

11.

The Pronouncement of Marriage

Once you say your vows in the presence of the celebrant and your two witnesses, then you are technically married, however traditionally the celebrant makes a statement to make it official

12.

The Kiss

You are allowed to kiss anytime you want during the ceremony, but traditionally you are meant to wait until after the celebrant pronounces you *"husband and wife"* and then it's socially acceptable for you to go for it!

13.

Signing of the Register

Once the marriage is official, then the couple, the two witnesses and the celebrant must sign 3 documents:

2 x official certificates of marriage, of which one the celebrant keeps, the second which is sent into the Department of Births, Deaths and Marriages to be registered.

1 x a commemorative marriage certificate - which the couple keeps.

14.

Final Words

The celebrant says some final words and introduces you to your guests as 'husband and wife' or whatever partnership description you choose to be known as, and gets the guests ready to welcome and celebrate the new married couple.

9.

15.

The Recessional

This is where the newly married couple grab each other's hands and race back down the aisle to celebrate their new future, followed closely by their attendants, then they all congregate and wait for all their guests to come and congratulate them.

10.



Readings & poems

IN THE CEREMONY

It doesn't matter if your wedding ceremony is religious or secular, traditional or contemporary, wedding ceremony readings are a great way to personalize your ceremony and infuse the proceedings with a serious dose of love and commitment-inspired emotion.



11.

You choose what best articulates the love you and your partner have for each other. And this can include excerpts from:

- **Religious texts**
- **Traditional prayers and blessings**
- **Poems**
- **Song lyrics**
- **Movie quotes**
- **Book excerpts**

A sample reading:

"Love is an adventure and a conquest. It survives and develops like the universe itself only by perpetual discovery. The only right love is that between couples whose passion leads them both, one through the other, to a higher possession of their being. Put your faith in the spirit which dwells between the two of you. You have each offered yourself to the other as a boundless field of understanding, of enrichment, of mutually increased sensibility. You will meet above all by entering into and constantly sharing one another's thoughts, affections, and dreams. There alone, as you know, in spirit, which is arrived through flesh, you will find no disappointments, no limits. There alone the skies are ever open for your love; there alone lies the great road ahead."

Love is an Adventure by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

12.

Music IN THE CEREMONY

Music in the ceremony really helps create the vibe that you want to bring to the wedding. A basic ceremony usually involves three songs to create a great atmosphere for your wedding ceremony.

Song #1 (Processional):

When your bridal party and yourself/selves walk in

Song #2 (Signing):

When you sign the legal wedding documents with 2 witnesses

Song #3 (Recessional):

When you walk back down the aisle as a married couple with everyone throwing money at you... hopefully.

It is very easy to find examples of wedding songs on the internet. Just search 'wedding songs' and you will find hundreds of well known music choices for weddings, classical and contemporary.

Rituals IN THE CEREMONY

Rituals in the ceremony can include anything that symbolically represent the union of two people in a new life going forward.

For example:

A wine ritual symbolizes blending two lives (and two families!) into one. Some couples choose to drink wine from the same cup—a practice performed in most Catholic and Jewish ceremonies—while others prefer to pour two types of wine into one glass before sharing. This "blending" is symbolic of your union and the life you'll create together.

A candle ritual symbolizes unity. The bride and groom each hold a lit candle and combine their flames to light a third, larger candle. Sometimes the bride and groom's parents take on this task instead to symbolize the union of their families. You can also get the guests involved by displaying candles in the ceremony entrance and inviting friends and family to light one and say a blessing as they enter.

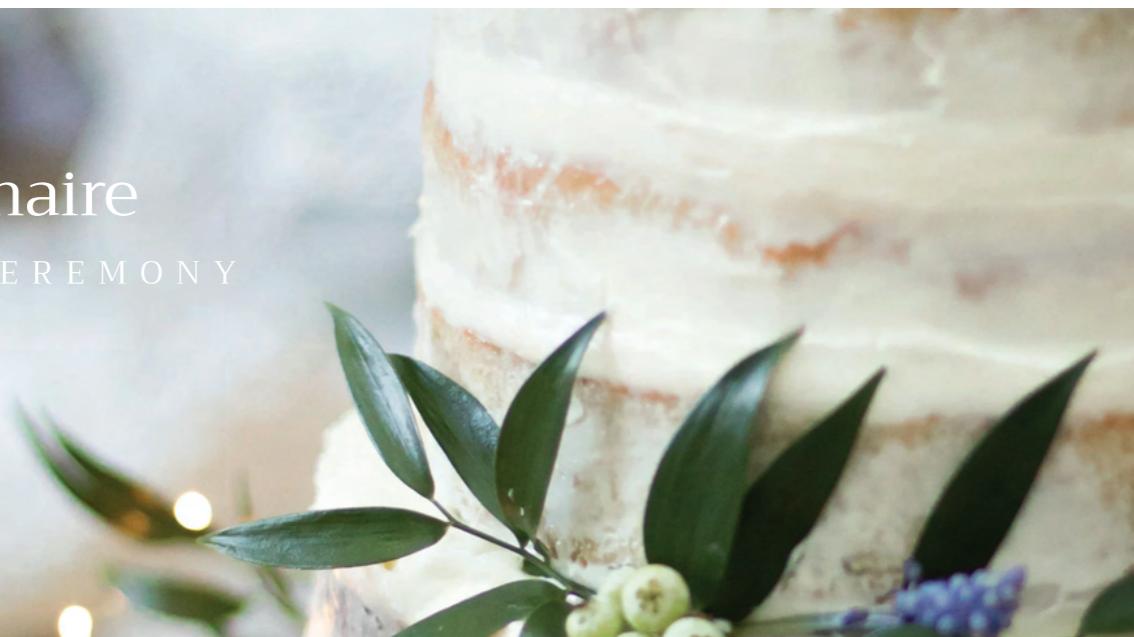
The Script

So now you have the basic structure of the ceremony, the celebrant will collaborate with the couple to create a script for the ceremony. This is the most personalised part of the ceremony whereby the couple share with the celebrant, those key moments in the relationship that will make up the narrative of their love story. Initially the couple will fill in a questionnaire provided by the celebrant. (See next page).

The celebrant will then put their writing skills to work, creating a draft script for the ceremony. This can be written in a humorous light-hearted tone, or a more serious traditional tone depending on the couple's preference and appropriateness for the type of ceremony. The couple will review the draft and the celebrant will make amendments where necessary to ensure the script delivers the perfect portrayal of the couple's love story.

Script Questionnaire

WEDDING CEREMONY



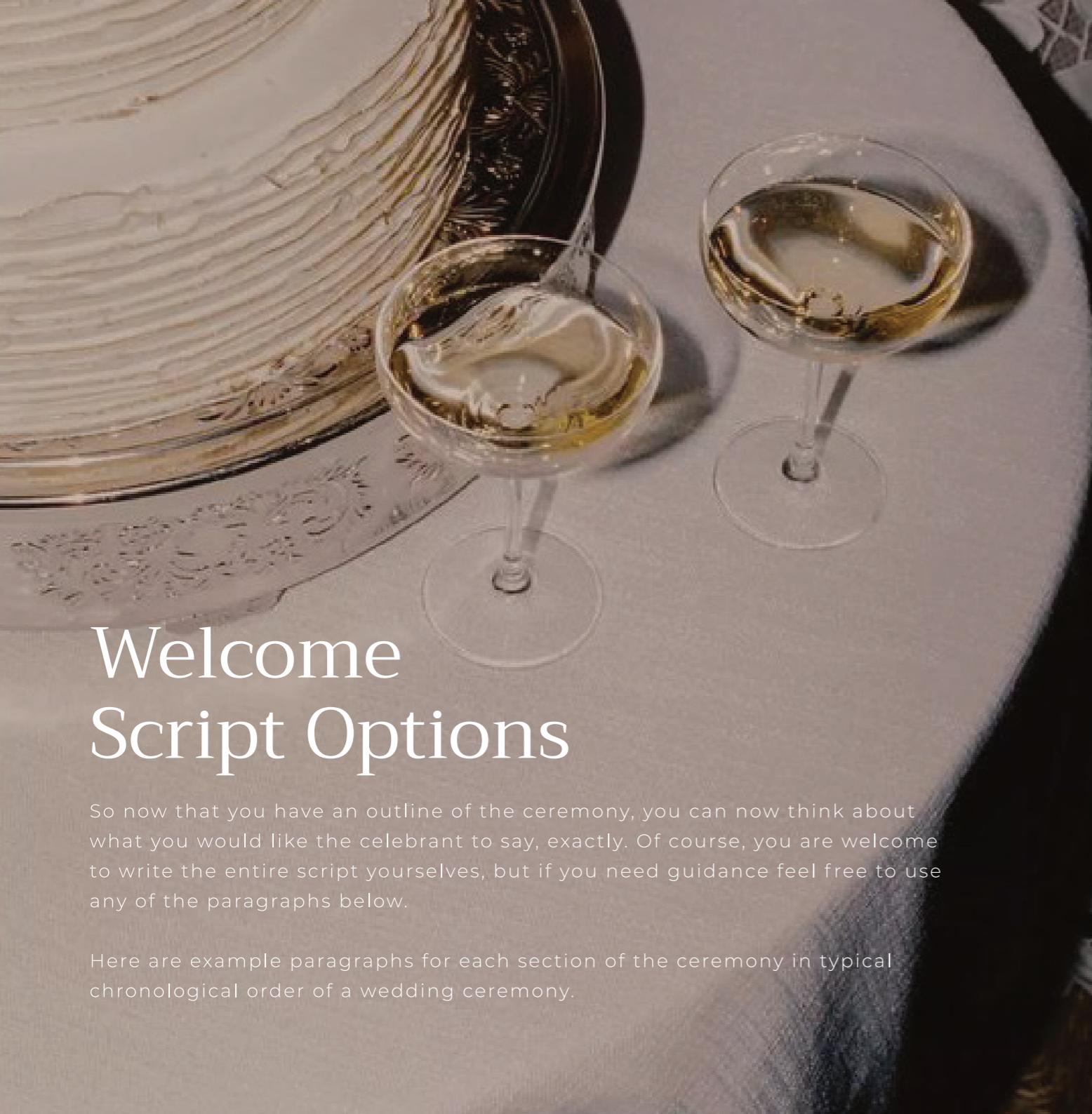
Client Reference:
Bride's name:
Date of wedding:

Groom's name:
Venue:

Question	Bride	Groom
How and when did you meet each other?		
What were your first impressions of your partner?		
Can you recall your first date?		
When did you realise this relationship was special and why?		

Question	Bride	Groom
What was your engagement story? Was it romantic, funny, or serious and why?		
How would your closest friends describe your relationship in one word?		
Does your partner have any annoying traits that you consider endearing?		
What has been the biggest challenge in your relationship so far?		

Question	Bride	Groom
Can you share a pivotal happy, surprise, memorable moment you shared with your partner?		
What do you love most about your partner and what makes you a perfect match?		
What does marriage mean to you?		
What is your favourite song?		
Please let me know of anything else that is special to you both that you would like me to include in 'your story'		



Welcome Script Options

So now that you have an outline of the ceremony, you can now think about what you would like the celebrant to say, exactly. Of course, you are welcome to write the entire script yourselves, but if you need guidance feel free to use any of the paragraphs below.

Here are example paragraphs for each section of the ceremony in typical chronological order of a wedding ceremony.

1.

The Celebrant's Welcome

After the processional, the celebrant takes over and welcomes the guests and the wedding party with a speech, which can include whatever you find appropriate.

Some examples can be found below:

Option 1.1

From this place (celebrant describes something about the significance and beauty of your chosen ceremony venue/location), we take ourselves out of the usual routines of daily living to witness a unique moment in the lives of X & X. Today they join their lives in the union of marriage. Because you are the ones who have supported them and known them so well, it is only fitting that you are the ones to share this once-in-a-lifetime moment with them. And so it is that X & X present themselves to be married today...surrounded by the people they love the most.

Option 1.2

Today, friends and family, we will be witnessing one of the most memorable days of X & X's life. Together we celebrate the love and union of X & X as they stand in front of family and friends and make a formal promise to each other. It is a binding promise from his day forward to love and care for one another through the joys, challenges, the mundane and the extraordinary. We are also here to celebrate a union that will create a new extended family. All of you here today, are part of this new family and family is one of the most important things in the world. With that said, I'm sure we're all very eager to proceed with the wedding ceremony that will connect this new extended family. So let my speech end here and let us carry on with the ceremony.

Option 1.3

Welcome friends, family, and loved ones. We're gathered here today to celebrate X & X in their lifelong commitment of love to each other. Finding your life partner is a true joy, and the commitment to share in life's ups and downs as one is no small feat. While marriage will bring its own challenges and triumphs, let this day be a reminder of what your love has already accomplished, as well as the possibilities for your partnership as you grow together for years to come. You have both chosen to spend the rest of your lives together and today is about making that promise official. May the promises made here today, be a reflection of the love and sincerity of your truest intentions for your future together.

Option 1.4

Good morning, and welcome everyone. Today is a celebration. A celebration of love, of commitment, of friendship, and of family. When X & X met, the extraordinary happened; -X & X fell madly-in-love. In a world with so many people and yet so few who really understand us, love us and gel with us on a deep level – to have found one another, is actually quite miraculous and absolutely worthy of our celebration and support. X & X stand across from each other to be joined as Husband and Wife because they have chosen to love each other exclusively and want nothing more than to pledge this commitment today, in front of their family and friends.

Option 1.5

Good afternoon and welcome beautiful guests that stand before us today. X & X would like to thank everyone for coming to support them in this exciting endeavour and union. Your friendship and support helped to strengthen them as they've made their way to this moment. Each of you here represents a piece of X & X's lives. Whether you came into their lives years ago, or more recently, your presence here is a gift to them – and I know it means a lot to them and they thank you for being here. Today marks the beginning of a new journey for them as they pledge their love and commitment to one another in front of their family and friends. And as their loved ones, it is our privilege to be here and share in this momentous occasion.

Words About Marriage

After the welcome, the celebrant shares a few words about the commitment the couple are about to enter. You will find a few examples below:

Option 2.1

X & X Today, your lives blend seamlessly together as you embark on the greatest of adventures. Your marriage to one another. A brilliant new path is ahead of you, and to navigate it well, there are skills to be learned and practiced daily. A true marriage begins well before the wedding day, and the efforts of marriage continue well beyond the ceremony. A brief moment in time and the stroke of the pen are all that is required to create the legal bond of marriage, but it takes a lifetime of love, commitment, and compromise to make a marriage durable and everlasting. " Wilferd Arlan Peterson's "The Art of a Good Marriage" reminds us that a good marriage doesn't just happen, one must be created. In marriage, the little things are the big things; like never being too old to hold hands – and remembering to say, "I love you," at least once a day. This may sound silly, but these small affirmations provide the foundations upon which the relationship can always depend upon. The small things do matter. When you promise your love to one another today, you are not only promising to share in the good times, the highs and the excitement, but you are promising to give all you have to work through unforeseen realities, as they will occur. Love is not about how much you say the words " I love you" but how much you show up in action and prove that it is true.

Option 2.2

Marriage will do many things; it will deepen your love for each other, it will stretch you to go to lengths you did not know you had within you. It will bring about challenges as well as happiness and joy, but most of all it will strengthen your connection to one another; it will teach you what it means to love unconditionally. In a sense, the marriage union is the perfect foundation to reach a mature understanding of love. Unconditional love. Now you have found one another, and the beautiful feeling of being understood by another without judgement, you have the sanctity of an intimate space with each other where you can share your deepest vulnerabilities, in an emotionally safe space. Unconditional love is based on a mutual desire for each other to be completely themselves, and to want the best for each other, even if sometimes it may not be what you would want for yourself. It is knowing when to be each other's rock, when to hold tight and when to let go. It is a pledge to communicate clearly and honestly and to make a conscious choice to continue to love even when it seems hard. Marriage is the union between two perfectly imperfect people who become the best version of themselves when they are committed to each other.

Option 2.3

The conscious choice to love, through the joys and challenges, the mundane and the extraordinary, at times may be difficult, however this deep commitment to one another, also has immense rewards unique to the loving commitment between individuals in marriage. Marriage is about having a mutual sense of values and common objectives. It is not looking for perfection in each other, but rather, it is cultivating flexibility, patience and understanding. Marriage deepens every facet of life. Happiness is fuller; memories are more vivid; and the commitment is unshakable. This exclusive commitment nurtures love, respect, and mutual support. It is not only about marrying the right partner but being the right partner in return. Marriage is not only a deeply personal commitment to another human being, but a highly public celebration of the ideals of mutuality, companionship, intimacy, fidelity, and family. It is a promise to love through the highs and the lows from this day forward. It is a vow to be each other's best friend, confidant and lover, teacher and listener. However, tomorrow and all the days that follow are about fulfilling that promise with action.

Option 2.4

A successful marriage is the consequence of personal effort. You work for it, strive for it, and insist upon it. It's a commitment not only to love, but also to life, to the best that two people can find and bring out in each other. It offers opportunities for sharing and growth that no other human relationship can equal; a joining that is promised for a lifetime. When we feel safe in the presence of our partner, there is no need to hide any part of ourselves for fear of being judged or rejected. There is a gentleness to the presence of love that softens life's rough edges. It makes us braver to go forth into the world knowing that the shelter of someone's love awaits us at the end of the day. In choosing to share their lives with one another, X & X trust that their lives will be far richer than had they chosen separate journeys through this world. X & X are excited to be entering into this new environment together, to stand hand in hand and face the world as a couple with strength, courage patience and a wicked sense of humour.

Option 2.5

Friends and family of X & X thank you for being here today, as we gather for one of the most memorable days for the rest of their lives. X & X as you stand in front of those you love the most today, you make a formal promise to one another – a promise which is built on a foundation of mutual love, trust, respect and understanding. Today as you make this commitment to one another, there are many things you acknowledge. Some of which are; understanding that marriage is about support and unconditional love; that it is about the freedom to be who you are and to be able to express that fully; that as a loving union, you are able to expand to your fullest capacity; that you now move through the world as a team, as you stand together and face the world. Knowing that your love will have seasons, that your relationship is a forever progress. Marriage is a commitment that takes the willingness to be open and vulnerable. It is having the courage to take risks and to vow to communicate clearly and honestly as you move through life's many events together. It is a promise to make a conscious choice to continue to love, even when it is hard. X & X you are making an unconditional commitment to an imperfect person, as you are completely seen by someone and loved no matter what.

3.

The Giving Away (Optional)

Traditionally the giving away is done by the father of the bride, however this can be done by anyone special to both the bride and the groom. This is an optional addition to the ceremony.

Option 3.1 - Father of the Bride

Celebrant:

There are not enough words to describe the significance and meaningfulness of the relationship between a child and their parents. As such, it must be so difficult yet heart-warming for any parent to watch their child get married. With that said, I kindly ask the father of the bride to please rise. Do you give your permission for (name of the bride) to be married to (name of the partner)?

Father of the bride: I do.

Option 3.2 - Father of the Bride

Celebrant:

The love of a parent knows no conditions or boundaries. Therefore, I have never met a father who was willing to "give away" his daughter. Instead, I want to ask, do you give your blessing for the union of (name of the bride) and (name of the partner)?

Father of the bride: I do.

Option 3.3 - Parents of the Bride

(Parents of bride and groom), the fact that you are here today is an indication of your approval and support of this promise being made here today. (X & X) are especially happy that you are both here to witness the pledge of their commitment to one another, as you really do mean so much to them. They ask for your blessing and that you welcome them into your families. I now publicly as (parents of bride and groom), do you offer (bride) and (groom) your love and support for their future together?

Parents: We do

Option 3.4 - Important/chosen person give-away

(Chosen person) means a lot to both X & X and because of this, they ask for your blessings and support of their union. With this in mind, do you (chosen person), offer your love and support for their future life together?

Giver: I do

Option 3.5 - Group giving-away

Ladies and gentlemen, X & X request that you all be included in their circle of love today, by becoming involved in the ceremony. They have requested that you bless X & X's union in marriage by giving them away as a group. So mindful of this, I now ask of you friends and family of X & X, to respond to my asking with WE DO. Do you bring X & X to be married to one another?

Group: We do

4.

The Asking (Optional)

The asking is a statement of intention whereby the bride and groom officially ask each other to be husband and wife. This can be introduced by the celebrant by asking X & X if they will now share with family and friends, the promises they will make for their future together as a married couple. The celebrant can ask the couple together, or individually. Some examples are below:

Option 4.1 (to the Groom)

Celebrant: (Groom) do you now choose (Bride) to be your life companion, to share your life openly with her, to speak truthfully and lovingly to her, to accept her fully as she is, to respect her uniqueness, encourage her and compassionately support her through all the changes of your years together?

Groom: I do.

Option 4.2 (to the Groom)

Celebrant: (Groom) will you take (Bride) to be your partner this day, to love her, respect her, understand her needs, ensure her happiness, and actively grow with her through all the changes of your years together?

Groom: I will.

Option 4.3 (to the Groom)

Celebrant: (Groom) do you now choose (Bride) to be your life companion, to share your life openly with her, to speak truthfully and lovingly to her, to accept her fully as she is, to respect her uniqueness, encourage her and compassionately support her through all the changes of your years together?

Groom: I do.

Option 4.4 (to both the Bride and Groom)

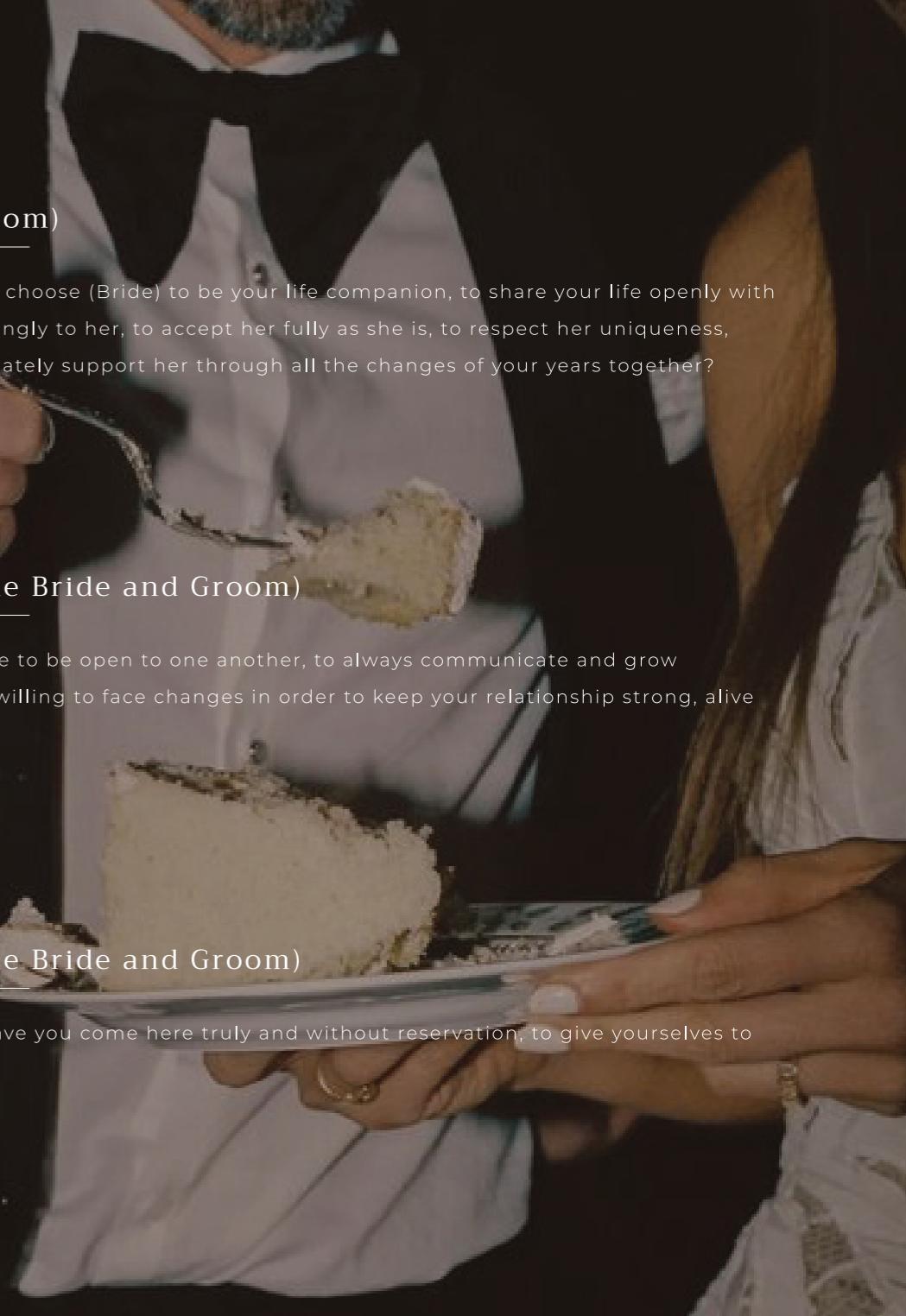
Celebrant: Do you X & X promise to be open to one another, to always communicate and grow alongside one another and be willing to face changes in order to keep your relationship strong, alive and exciting?

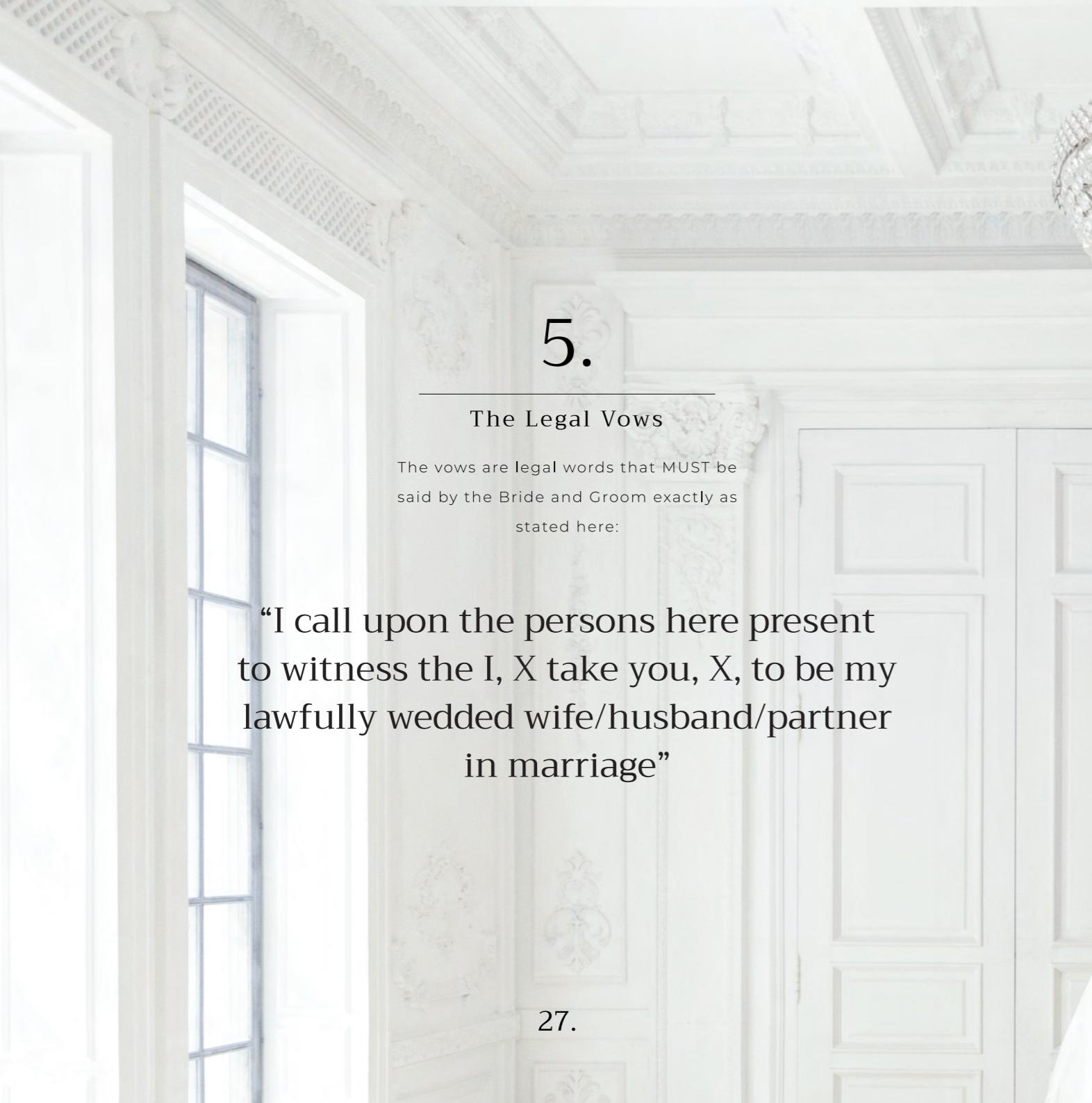
Together: we do

Option 4.5 (to both the Bride and Groom)

Celebrant: Bride and Groom, have you come here truly and without reservation, to give yourselves to each other in marriage?

Together: we have





5.

The Legal Vows

The vows are legal words that MUST be said by the Bride and Groom exactly as stated here:

“I call upon the persons here present to witness the I, X take you, X, to be my lawfully wedded wife/husband/partner in marriage”

6.

Personal Vows

Following the legal wording you can then choose to add to these words by way of your own personal vows. The celebrant will bring a copy of your vows on a note of paper for you on the day if you don't feel that you can memorise the vows. Alternatively, feel free to choose from the examples below:

Option 6.1

My lover and my friend, I love with you with all that I am. I love that we, laugh and dream together, that we share the same desires for our future. I love how your mind works, and how you know exactly what to say to make me feel at ease. Today and this day forward I promise to love you, cherish and respect you, till my end day.

Option 6.2

I love you, X. You are my best friend. Today I give myself to you in marriage I promise to inspire you, to laugh with you, and to comfort you in times of sorry and struggle. I promise to cherish you and to always hold you in the highest regard. These things I give to you today and all the days of the rest of our lives.

7.

The Ring Exchange

The ring exchange: It's the moment in your wedding ceremony where all those promises and dedications you make are symbolized in a physical form. For many couples this is one of the most special moments of the ceremony.

Option 6.3

I pledge to be your loving friend and partner in marriage. I promise to be there when you need me – to step aside when you don't. I will remain faithful to you for better or worse and in times of sickness and sorrow, I will be by your side always. I love you, you are my best friend, you are my soul mate.

Option 6.4 (humorous)

I promise to love you as much as I do our dog. From this day forward I will lint roll the chairs whenever your parents visit. I promise not to spend all our life savings on boxing day sales, but if I do, I promise to buy you as much as I buy for myself. I will always only ever post Instagram-worthy photos of you on my social media accounts and I promise not to sulk when you thrash me at scrabble. And one last thing, although today I say "I do", that is not to do the dishes.

The wedding vows are the promises you and your partner make to each other. The ring exchange follows. This is when the celebrant will ask you to place the ring on your loved one's finger and recite your chosen words. You may include the ring exchange within the vows, or you may choose not to speak at all during the exchange of rings. Here are some examples of wording when the rings are exchanged:

Option 7.1 This ring is a token of my love for you. I am yours, today and forever.

Option 7.2 I give you this ring as a reminder that we face this world together. We're an unbreakable team.

Option 7.3 I give you this ring as a gift that lasts forever. Know that I'm always with you, behind you, and by your side.

Option 7.4 I give you this ring as a reminder of today and all our hopes and dreams for the future.

Option 7.5 You are the love of my life. With this ring, I'm making it official.

Option 7.6 This beautifully crafted ring is an outward reminder of our inner unity, a bond which is stronger than any obstacle.

Option 7.7 Let this ring always be a reminder of my promises to you and the unwavering bond between us.

Option 7.8 (Groom not wearing a wedding ring)

Groom: I give you this ring as a way of showing just how much I love you today and for the rest of my life.

Bride: I accept this ring because I love you and will wear it to remind me of how much you love me.

8.

The Pronouncement Of Marriage

Once you say your vows in the presence of the celebrant and your two witnesses, then you are technically married. However, the celebrant will announce this formally at this moment. You are allowed to kiss anytime you want during the ceremony, but traditionally 'The Kiss' comes after the celebrant pronounces you "husband and wife" and then it's socially acceptable for you to go for it!

for example:

"Ladies and Gentlemen...

X & X have come together today with an open heart and good intention. They have shared their love for each other, what they believe to be the foundations of their relationship... and of their hopes for the future.

Their marriage today is bound by the vows they have given.... symbolised in the exchanging of rings.

It gives me great pleasure to declare that they are now husband and wife. Please join me in congratulating the happy couple.

And you know what to do next! Seal your love with a kiss!"

9.

Signing of the register

Once the marriage is official, then the couple, the two witnesses and the celebrant must sign 3 documents - the marriage register - which the celebrant keeps; the official marriage certificate - which is sent into the Department of Births, Deaths and Marriages to be registered and the commemorative marriage certificate - which the couple keeps.

11.

The Recessional

This is where the newly married couple grab each other's hands and race back down the aisle and into their brand new future, followed closely by their attendants, then they all congregate and wait for all their guests to come and congratulate them.

10.

Final Words

Here the celebrant will say some final words before the party leave the ceremony for the celebrations to begin.

For example:

"Apart from being day of great significance, a wedding day a day of great fun, much laughter and joyous celebration. So as this ceremony comes to a close, I wish you both, on behalf of everyone here, a wonderful life together and let's celebrate your bright new future with a party!

How to make a complaint

Thankfully celebrant troubles are very rare. The customer service agreement contract will also help mitigate any confusion around expectations and will be discussed and signed at the time of a booking. This agreement clearly sets out what you can expect from the celebrant AND what the celebrant expects from you.

If in the extremely rare case, there is a breakdown in the relationship between the celebrant and the couple, and it can't be worked through and resolved together, the Attorney General's department has a complaint procedure set out in the Marriage Regulations to enable complaints concerning the conduct of the celebrant to be made to the Registrar. The process is initiated by submitting a complaint form (within 3 months of the issue occurring).

This is the sequence in which it all happens:

1. *Following submission, a preliminary assessment of your complaint will be made and sent to both you and the celebrant.*
2. *Both you and the celebrant will be given the opportunity to comment on the preliminary assessment. Those comments may include any additional information, photographs or signed witness statements.*
3. *Submitted comments are then taken into consideration and you and the celebrant will then be advised of the Registrar's final determination.*

If the Registrar decides the complaint is well-founded, there are a number of steps they may take, including several disciplinary measures against the celebrant. However, the Registrar does not have the power to order the celebrant to repay any money to you, although they can make a recommendation to that effect. If you are seeking a refund, you should visit the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) website, where you can use an online tool to identify the state or territory consumer affairs body that may be able to assist you with your consumer complaint.

Marriage and Education Services

Premarital counselling is a form of couples therapy that can help you and your partner prepare for marriage. It is intended to help you and your partner discuss several important issues, ranging from finances to children so that you are both on the same page. It can also help identify potential conflict areas and equip you and your partner with tools to navigate them successfully. Premarital counselling aims to help you build a strong foundation for marriage. If you feel your relationship would benefit from professional guidance, below are some registered counsellors that specialise in marriage counselling.

Associated counsellors and psychologists Sydney

Website: counsellingsydney.com.au/relationship-marriage-counselling/pre-marriage-counselling-sydney

Online bookings: counsellingsydney.com.au/contact-us?campaign=rhs
Phone: (02) 8205 0566

Get ready for Marriage (Sydney CBD, North Sydney and Newport)

Website: www.getreadyformarriage.com.au **Mobile:** 0403 200 849

Carolyn Mallam **Email:** moyra@getreadyformarriage.com.au

Moyra MacIntosh **Mobile:** 0408 747 880

Email: carolyn@getreadyformarriage.com.au

Northern Beaches relationship counselling

Website: nbrelationshipcounselling.com.au

Karen Adams **Mobile:** 0414529030

Happily Ever ... Before and After

STRENGTHENING YOUR MARRIAGE

Before marriage: Marriage Education

Solid relationships set you up to meet the changes and challenges of life. It is important to develop good communication and sound relationship skills early, so that you can fall back on these skills during difficult times.

Pre-marriage education prepares couples for marriage by providing skills and information to build lifelong marriages. Courses are also available to explore the added dimension and complexity brought to a marriage by children from a previous relationship.

During marriage: Family Counselling

Keeping relationships on track is not always easy. Relationship problems can arise at various stages of our lives. While having a shaky moment does not mean your relationship is in trouble, it may be a sign that you could do with some help.

Family counselling can help couples come to terms with the many changes that happen during a marriage, such as the personal and interpersonal issues to do with children and family. Family counsellors can help you work through emotional problems with your spouse or partner, or to reach agreement about your parental responsibilities.

Marriage breakdown: Family Dispute Resolution

Family Dispute Resolution (FDR) can help separating couples to reach agreement about property, money, and—most importantly—any children. The law requires separating families who have a parenting dispute to make a genuine effort to try to sort it out through FDR.

An accredited FDR Practitioner can help you discuss issues, look at options, and reach agreement. Importantly, FDR can help you to develop a parenting plan to set out arrangements for any children.

For more information about the services and advice available for couples and families, visit the Family Relationships Online website at www.familyrelationships.gov.au or phone the Family Relationship Advice Line on 1800 050 321.

This information is provided pursuant to subsection 42(5A) of the *Marriage Act 1961* and regulation 39A of the *Marriage Regulations 1963*

Happily, Ever... Before and After

INFORMATION FOR COUPLES PLANNING TO MARRY



MARRIAGE IS IMPORTANT

Your celebrant is handing you this document because the decision to marry is one of the biggest decisions a couple can make. Marriage is a significant step which will bring a number of changes for you, your spouse and your family. This document tells you:

- the process of getting married in Australia,
- some important legal consequences of getting married, and
- where relationship support services, such as marriage education, family counselling or dispute resolution services may be obtained.

GETTING MARRIED IN AUSTRALIA

In Australia, marriage is regulated by the *Marriage Act 1961*, which sets out the process for getting married and the legal requirements of a valid marriage.



A completed **Notice of Intended Marriage** form must be given to your celebrant at least one month (and up to 18 months) before the wedding.

You and your partner must provide your celebrant with **evidence of your date and place of birth, identity and the end of any previous marriages**.

You must both sign the 'Declaration of no legal impediment to marriage'. By signing the Declaration, you declare that you believe that you are of marriageable age, and that there is no legal impediment to your marriage.

On your **wedding day**, your celebrant will solemnise your marriage. Your celebrant will then ask you, your partner and your witnesses to **sign up to three marriage certificates**.

After your wedding, **your marriage celebrant will register the marriage** with the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages in the State or Territory where your marriage took place.

MARRIAGE IN AUSTRALIA: SOME IMPORTANT THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

Health and welfare benefits

If you receive health or welfare benefits, you will need to contact the relevant agencies to advise them that you have married. These agencies will advise you if your benefits will change. You may lose benefits and even be penalised if you fail to tell them you have married within a reasonable time after the wedding.

Changing your name

Any person who marries may choose to take their spouse's surname. You are not legally required to take your spouse's surname once you are married.

If you wish to take your spouse's surname, you must obtain a certificate of marriage issued by your state or territory Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. This is usually sufficient evidence to have your personal documentation (eg. driver's licence) changed to your married surname.

The certificate you received on your wedding day is ceremonial and will not meet the identity requirements of many government agencies, such as the passport office.

Citizenship

If you marry an Australian citizen, you do not have an automatic right to Australian citizenship. You will still need to apply for citizenship and satisfy the eligibility criteria. You can obtain further information from the Department of Immigration and Border Protection website at www.immi.gov.au.

Making a will

Marriage will invalidate any previous wills unless your will clearly shows you were planning this marriage when you made it.

It is important that you make a new will when your personal circumstances change. This ensures that you have a valid will that gives effect to your intentions about how you want your assets to be distributed in the event of your death. A solicitor can help you make or change a will.

Taxation after marriage

When you marry, the amount of taxation you pay may change. It is advisable to contact the Australian Taxation Office, a tax agent or an accountant before marriage to discuss any tax implications.

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR MARRIAGE CELEBRANTS

The Code of Practice for Marriage Celebrants is contained in Schedule 2 of the Marriage Regulations 2017.

1 APPLICATION OF THIS CODE OF PRACTICE

This Code of Practice applies to marriage celebrants.

Note 1: A marriage celebrant is a person registered under Subdivision C of Division 1 of Part IV of the *Marriage Act 1961*: see subsection 5(1) of that Act.

Note 2: Under paragraph 39(1)(b) of that Act, if the Registrar of Marriage Celebrants is satisfied that a marriage celebrant has not complied with an obligation under section 39G of that Act, including this Code of Practice, the Registrar may take disciplinary measures against the marriage celebrant.

2 HIGH STANDARD OF SERVICE

A marriage celebrant must maintain a high standard of service in his or her professional conduct and practice. This includes (without limitation) ensuring the following:

- (a) appropriate personal presentation for marriage ceremonies;
- (b) punctuality for marriage ceremonies;
- (c) accuracy in preparation of documents and in the conduct of marriage ceremonies.

3 RECOGNITION OF SIGNIFICANCE OF MARRIAGE

A marriage celebrant must recognise the social, cultural and legal significance of marriage and the marriage ceremony in the Australian community, and the importance of strong and respectful family relationships.

4 COMPLIANCE WITH THE ACT AND OTHER LAWS

A marriage celebrant must:

- (a) comply with the requirements of the *Marriage Act 1961* and the *Marriage Regulations 2017* which apply to the marriage celebrant; and
- (b) observe the laws of the Commonwealth and of any State or Territory in which the marriage celebrant solemnises marriages; and
- (c) avoid unlawful discrimination in the provision of marriage celebrancy services.

5 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MARRIAGE CEREMONIES

A marriage celebrant must respect the importance of the marriage ceremony to the parties and the other persons organising the ceremony. This includes (without limitation) the following:

Updated: 1 April 2018

- (a) giving the parties information and guidance to enable them to choose or compose a marriage ceremony, including information to assist the parties to decide whether a marriage ceremony rehearsal is needed or appropriate;
- (b) respecting the privacy and confidentiality of the parties, including by:
 - (i) arranging for appropriate facilities to interview parties; and
 - (ii) dealing appropriately with personal documents and personal information; and
 - (iii) maintaining appropriate facilities for the secure storage of records; and
 - (iv) ensuring the return of all personal documents belonging to the parties as soon as practicable (unless it is necessary to keep the documents for the ceremony);
- (c) giving the parties information about how to notify the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department of any concerns or complaints they may have regarding the marriage services provided by the marriage celebrant.

6 KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS SERVICES

A marriage celebrant must:

- (a) maintain an up-to-date knowledge about appropriate family relationships services in the community; and
- (b) inform the parties to the marriage about the range of information and services available to them to enhance, and sustain them throughout, their relationship.



BEL CLAYTON
CELEBRANCY

LET THE CELEBRATIONS BEGIN

0410 404 720