

## CIVIL MARRIAGE CEREMONY # 8

**OFFICIATE:** We are gathered here for the purpose of joining in the legal state of matrimony this man and this woman, under the authority given and provided by the Government of the Province of Ontario.

The essence of this commitment is the taking of another person in his or her entirety as a lover, companion and friend. It is therefore a decision not to be entered into lightly, but rather with great consideration and respect for both the other person and oneself.

-----and -----have invited us to share in this celebration as they affirm their love before us, pledge their faith to one another and enter into the joys and privilege of marriage. Love is one of the highest experiences we human beings can have, and it can add depth of meaning to our lives. The day-to-day companionship, the pleasure in doing things together or in doing separate things but exchanging experiences, is a continuous and central part of what two people who love each other can share.

Marriage is not a one-sided affair; it's not 50-50 partnership; it takes 100% commitment from each person. Marriage symbolizes the intimate sharing of two lives, yet this sharing must not diminish but enhance the individuality of each partner. A happy marriage is one which is continually developing while growing in understanding of the other person.

By growing together in love, it is possible to share not only the joys of life but the burdens of sorrow as well.

-----and -----, your marriage is intended to join you in a relationship so intimate and personal, it will change your whole being. It offers you the hope and indeed the promise of a love that is true and mature. To attain such love, you will have to commit yourselves to each other freely and gladly for the sake of a richer and deeper life together.

If there is any one present who can show just cause why these two persons may not be lawfully joined together in matrimony they should now declare it, or hereafter remain silent.

**-----Male -repeat after me:**

**GROOM** I do solemnly declare, // that I do not know, // of any lawful impediment or reason, // why I-----Male, // may not be joined in matrimony // to---  
Female.

**Female-----repeat after me:**

**BRIDE** I do solemnly declare, // that I do not know, // of any lawful impediment or reason, // why I -----Female--- may not be joined in matrimony to //  
----Male----

**--Male---and ----Female----please face each other.**

**--GROOM ---repeat after me:**

**GROOM** I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I **GROOM FIRST NAME**, do take you **BRIDE FIRST NAME**, to be my lawful wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better or worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, so long as we both shall live.

**Bride repeat after me:**

**BRIDE** I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I **BRIDE FIRST NAME**, do take you **GROOM FIRST NAME**, to be my lawful wedded husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, so long as we both shall live.

**RINGS** As a symbol of their commitment to each other, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are exchanging rings.

Groom – place the ring on Bride’s finger, hold it there and say these words to her:

**GROOM** I **GROOM FIRST NAME**, take you **BRIDE FIRST NAME**, to be my lawfully wedded wife. I give you this ring, as a token of the covenant, made this day between us, and as a symbol of my love.

Bride – place the ring on Groom’s finger, hold it there and say these words to him:

**BRIDE** I **BRIDE FIRST NAME**, take you **GROOM FIRST NAME**, to be my lawfully wedded husband. I give you this ring, as a token of the covenant, made this day between us, and as a symbol of my love.

**PL** I, (Clerk), by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Marriage Act, do hereby pronounce you \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to be husband and wife. You may kiss the bride.

The wedding party will now sign the register.

Photographs may be taken at this time.

Sign register

Put *Record of Solemnization of Marriage* in envelope, give to bride

Shake hands, congratulate

**PL** Ladies and gentlemen, may I introduce Mr. and Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_.

Please join me in offering them our congratulations.