

## **CIVIL MARRIAGE CEREMONY #6**

**OFFICIATE:** We are gathered here this afternoon to witness the formal 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.

Both of you should understand that marriage is not to be entered upon thoughtlessly or irresponsibly, but with a due and serious understanding and appreciation of the ends for which it is contracted.

As the two of you walk the road of married life together you will quickly come to realize that it is not a one-sided affair. No longer should the two of you think only of yourself. Unmarried persons generally have interests only for themselves and generally need only to look after themselves.

That is not the case with married persons. The concept of what's mine is mine and what's yours is yours, will no longer apply. In marriage there is a need to share things...and that includes the sorrows as well as the good times. Although this is a happy day for each of you, and so it should be, nevertheless marriage is not always a bed of roses.

Sometimes one encounters a thorn or two that causes irritation. You will find this to be the case with marriage.

You will not always agree...you will not always see eye to eye... you will not always please each other. But that should be no cause for regret or any other drastic action, because there are many good times to marriage that overshadow the sorrows.

Each of you will have something to contribute to this marriage arrangement. The husband will add masculine qualities to this marital union...we can think of strength, maybe decisiveness, perhaps protectiveness. These qualities can contribute greatly to a happy marriage.

As for the woman, she has feminine qualities...such as kindness, gentleness, tenderness. And when you put all of that together and let those qualities work together, harmoniously, you will indeed have a happy marriage.

Therefore if there is anyone 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.

Is there anyone here who gives this woman in marriage to this man?

**REPEAT**

I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I \_\_\_\_\_ may not be joined in matrimony to \_\_\_\_\_

**REPEAT**

I call upon these persons here present to witness that I \_\_\_\_\_ do take you \_\_\_\_\_ to be my lawful wedded wife/husband to love and to cherish, to have and to hold for as long as we both shall live.

**RINGS**

This ring/These rings will serve as an outward sign of the bond that has taken place between the two of you.

I (Clerk), by virtue of the powers vested in my by the Marriage Act do hereby pronounce you \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to be husband and wife.