

A BRIEF FORM FOR THE WEDDING SERVICE



Welcome and Introduction

The minister/officiant informally welcomes the wedding party and guest.

Prayer

Let us pray:

Faithful God, we dare to invoke your name in this glad moment, because we know you are the Creator of humanity in your image and in accord with your will. You are the Author of love, the Source of passion, the Model of commitment. You stand with us, through all of life's experiences, worries, defeats, and victories. So we pray for your presence now, confident that divine blessing comes to rest wherever hearts are woven together with fidelity and love. Bless this hour for (Name) and (Name), and let your peace uphold all who love them and who witness this sacred moment. Amen.

One or more readings from Scripture or literature may be read.

Statement of Intentions

The minister/officiant addresses the couple.

Dear friends, marriage is a legal relationship which is one of the foundations of community and society. It is, therefore, a public and civil relationship which expects all other people to honor and respect it. Marriage is also a spiritual relationship—a covenant of heart and soul, and a shelter for love and intimacy.

Marriage is not to be entered into lightly, but is to be understood by all as a lifelong connection of two lives, two hearts, two fortunes and two futures. Marriage involves both privileges and obligations. Because of this, I ask you:

Do each of you enter this union freely and without coercion? If so, answer, "I do."

Response: I do.

Are you prepared to accept both the rights and responsibilities of married life? If so, answer, "I am."

Response: I am.

Is it your intention to support, honor, defend and uphold one another in all circumstances? If so, answer, "Yes, with the help of God."

Response: Yes, with the help of God.

Exchange of Promises

The couple join hands. Each spouse repeats the words to his partner:

I (Name), take you, (Name), to be my *husband/wife*;
to have and to hold from this day forward,
in joy and in sorrow,
in plenty and in want,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish, as long as we both shall live.
This is my solemn *vow/promise*.

Exchange of Rings

Each spouse places the ring on the other's hand and repeats these words:

(Name), I give you this ring, as a sign of my love and faithfulness.

Declaration of Marriage

(Name) and (Name), by their solemn promises, freely made before God, have joined themselves to one another for love and for life. Those whom God has joined together, let no one separate. Amen.

Prayers and intercessions may be offered.

Blessing

(Name) and (Name),
God bless you and guide you in your faithful commitment to one another.
God defend you and shelter you in your tender love for one another.
God uphold you in all life's challenges, and shower you with all life's rewards,
that you always find strength and delight in each other, and grow in love until your
life's end. Amen.

By the authority vested in me by the State of California, I now pronounce you
(husband and wife)(spouses for life)! You may embrace.

