

## Secular Ceremony

We are gathered here today to celebrate one of life's greatest moments, to give recognition to the worth and beauty of love, and to add our best wishes to the words which shall unit BRIDE'S NAME and GROOM'S NAME in marriage.

BRIDE & GROOM'S NAME, life is given to each of us as individuals and yet we must learn to live together. Love is given to us by our family or by our friends. We learn to love by being loved. Learning to love and living together is one of the greatest challenges of life – and is the shared goal of a married life

Place for reading of the couple's choice. Some possibilities are Shakespeare's Sonnet CXVI, Robert Frost's "The Master Speed", Pablo Neruda's Sonnet XVII: Kahlil Gibran's "The Prophet"

Minister to the GROOM:

GROOM'S NAME, will you take BRIDE'S NAME to be your lawfully wedded wife? Will you share completely with her in your life together? Will you promise to be open and honest in your relationship? Will you give her comfort, support and strength in both adversity and joy?

GROOM to Minister:

I will.

Minister to BRIDE:

BRIDE'S NAME will you take GROOM'S NAME to be your lawfully wedded husband? Will you share completely with him in your life together: Will you promise to be open and honest in your relationship? Will you give him comfort, support and strength in both adversity and joy?

BRIDE to Minister:

I will

Minister to bride and groom: "Please hold hands".

GROOM, repeat after me:

In the spirit of love and unity in the midst of family and friends I, GROOM'S NAME, promise to stand beside you and love you always? I will love you in times of sadness and celebration in times of sickness and health. I will treasure and honor you as long as we both shall live.

BRIDE repeat after me:

In the spirit of love and unity in the midst of family and friends I, BRIDE'S NAME, promise to stand beside you and love you always? I will love you in times of sadness and celebration in times of sickness and health. I will treasure and honor you as long as we both shall live.

## Ring Exchange

Minister to both:

What token to you give to each other in love? (Minister holds the rings and says)

Wedding rings are an outward and visible sign of an inward spiritual grace and the unbroken circle of love, signifying to all the union of this man and this woman in marriage.

BRIDE'S NAME will you place it upon GROOM'S NAME finger and repeat after me:

Let this ring ever be symbol of our love as a token of our faith I place it upon your hand.

Minister to GROOM: repeat after me

As a token of your faith I give it place upon my hand.

Repeat with ring for bride.

As the two of you come into this marriage uniting you as husband and wife, and as you this day affirm your faith and love for one another, I would ask that you always remember to cherish each other as special and unique individuals, that you respect the thoughts, ideas and suggestions of one another. Be able to forgive, do not hold grudges, and live each day that you may share it together – as from this day forward you shall be each other's home, comfort and refuge, your marriage strengthened by your love and respect for each other.

Rose Ceremony, Unity Candle Ceremony or Sand Ceremony can be placed here.

We give thanks for the marriage of BRIDE & GROOM'S NAMES. We know that love never dies, but if unshackled by fear or misunderstanding can only grow and blossom, deepen, broaden, and be exalted as these lives go on together. May the minds and hearts of these two be open to the recognition of new beauty in one another each day of their lives together. May their love be a never-ending process of growing into greater wisdom and a deeper understanding of themselves, of one another, and of life. May they receive the abundance of life and enjoy love as they journey together.

(Minister to couple)

In as much as you, BRIDE & GROOM'S NAMES, have consented before these witnesses to join together in marriage, and endeavor to love, honor and respect one another, and by the power invested in me as an ordained minister by the state of \_\_\_\_\_, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

You may kiss the bride.

Couple turns to face the audience.

Minister introduces the couple.