



FORT FRANCES
BOUNDLESS

CIVIL MARRIAGE CEREMONY SERVICES

GUIDELINES, INFORMATION & PLANNING PACKAGE



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CIVIL MARRIAGE CEREMONY APPLICANTS' CHECKLIST

- Determine a location and time for your ceremony.
- Complete and sign a marriage application form.
- Call the Town of Fort Frances Deputy Clerk to apply for a Marriage licence (fee of \$153 applicable). (807) 274-5323 x1212.
- Bring a completed marriage application form and two valid Government issued identifications (see pages 13-14 to see what's acceptable identification).
- Complete Civil Marriage Ceremony Booking Agreement (see page 4).
- Make arrangements for two (2) witnesses over the age of 16. There is an option to request Town witnesses for additional fees.
- If required, make arrangements for an Interpreter for the Ceremony. (*Des services en français sont disponibles*).
- Review Civil Marriage Ceremony Guidelines (see page 11) and ask questions if you are not clear on any of the information regarding your booking.
- If you have your own personal vows you will need to provide these to the Officiant well in advance; keeping in mind our Officiants are performing your civil marriage ceremony and are not 'religious officiants.'
- Pay for all required Town of Fort Frances fees in accordance with this package i.e. marriage licence fee, civil marriage ceremony fee, attendance at wedding rehearsal, travel time.
- Arrange for any music, photography, and flowers.
- The Marriage Licence application and envelope from the Clerk's office are required for the service and will be mailed out thereafter.
- Approximately three (3) months following the ceremony, apply online for a Marriage Certificate: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/how-get-copy-ontario-marriage-certificate-online>
- BRING YOUR MARRIAGE LICENCE TO YOUR WEDDING!** Don't forget it!

- f) The celebrants understand that they and their guests are not permitted to consume alcohol and/or drugs prior to or during the ceremony. If the officiate feels someone is under the influence, they have the right to cancel the ceremony.
- g) The celebrants understand and agree that if there is a significant delay in beginning the ceremony it may be deemed necessary to reschedule the appointment to the next available time.
- h) A wedding booking is not confirmed until this agreement and payment is completed and returned to the Clerk's office.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

By signing this form, I acknowledge I have read and understand the cancellation policy with respect to Fees and the Cancellation policy as outlined on pages 5 and 6 of the Civil Marriage Information Package.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Clerk's Office Representative:

Full Amount Paid: \$ _____ **Receipt Attached:** **Date Paid:**

Personal Information on this form is collected under the authority of Section 10 of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 5, and the Marriage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.m.3 and will be used for the purpose of this Application only.

PRE-CEREMONY APPLICATION CHECKLIST WITH THE MARRIAGE OFFICIANT

Name of Applicants _____

How you want to be introduced once married: Mr and Mrs. _____
 Husband and Wife
 Other preference _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Marriage Licence with Receipt – get Copies Yes No

Date of Ceremony: _____ Arrival Time: _____

Location of Ceremony (name/type): _____

Address of Ceremony: _____

Rehearsal: Yes No Costing \$ _____ Mileage/Travel _____

Ceremony type: _____

Arrangement for couple: Standing Seated

Entrance (with whom): _____

Setup for guests: _____

Table for Register: Yes No

of Guests: _____ # of Wedding Party _____

Witness Names (2): _____

Confetti, Rice, Bubbles, etc.: _____

Decorations: _____

Greetings to guests by Commissioner: Yes No

If yes, wording? _____

Vows: Standard Personal Commissioner led or memorized? _____

Small phrases for repeating vows? Yes No

Reading Prayer, etc. by wedding party/family/friend, who? _____

Rings: None 1 2 Held by? _____

Music: _____

Photographs/Photographer? Who _____

Where _____

When _____

Interpreter required: Yes No

Commissioner attire: Robe Personal clothing Other _____

Other/Comments: _____

Do you consent to the Town taking a photo(s) for marketing purposes? (Does Yes No

require a photo consent to be completed)

Personal Information on this form is collected under the authority of Section 10 of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25, and the Marriage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.m.3 and will be used for the purpose of this Application only.

Questions about this collection should be directed to the Freedom of Information & Privacy Coordinator, Town of Fort Frances, 320 Portage Avenue, Fort Frances, ON P9A 3P9 (807)-274-5323.

ABOUT OUR CIVIL MARRIAGE SERVICES

The Town of Fort Frances Clerk's Office offer Civil Marriage Services to those that are eligible and who wish to be married in a Civil Marriage Ceremony.

Legal Requirements and Form of Ceremony required by the Marriage Act:

The Province of Ontario Marriage Act gives the Municipal Clerk the powers to marry in the Province of Ontario. The Clerk may thereby perform the ceremonies directly or may delegate their power to "Marriage Commissioners". The Marriage Commissioners designated and trained by the Town Clerk, will act as Officiate to solemnize the Civil Marriage Ceremony. The Civil Marriage Service will be a non-denominational ceremony, which adheres to the requirements of the Marriage Act for the Province of Ontario. As such, ceremonies will not be approved to be held in any religious Sanctuary.

Form of ceremony (excerpt from the Act):

No particular form of ceremony is required except that in some part of the ceremony, in the presence of the person solemnizing the marriage and witnesses, each of the parties shall declare:

I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, AB, may not be joined in matrimony to CD, and each of the parties shall say to the other:

I call upon these persons here present to witness that I, AB, do take you, CD, to be my lawful wedded wife (or to be my lawful wedded husband or to be my lawful wedded partner or to be my lawful wedded spouse), after which the person solemnizing the marriage shall say:

I, Officiant, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Marriage Act, do hereby pronounce you AA and BB to be married.

Civil Marriage Ceremony:

Ceremonies are guaranteed available in English only, with French or other language available dependent on the ability and willingness of the Marriage Officiant. They are simple and dignified and our Civil Marriage Officiants will conduct and are authorized to perform services within the boundaries of the Town of Fort Frances. Ceremonies are also conducted in the Municipal Council Chambers at the Civic Centre. The actual ceremony can last from 10 to 15 minutes, depending on the vows chosen, etc.

Civic Centre ceremonies are available Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., (and on weekends - subject to Town Clerk / Deputy Clerk availability) depending on room availability. It is recommended that ceremonies are booked in well in advance.

ABOUT OUR FEES

1. The following fees for Civil Marriage Services, as approved in the Town User Fees By-law will apply;

ITEM	FEE	+ HST	TOTAL
Marriage Licence	\$153.00	NA	\$153.00
Administrative Fee	\$100.00	\$13.00	\$113.00
Ceremony Fee in Council Chambers during Office Hours	\$250.00	\$32.50	\$282.50
Ceremony Fee at all other locations plus Mileage	\$350.00	\$45.50	\$395.50
Rehearsal Fee	\$75.00	\$9.75	\$84.75
Fee per Witness (if required)	\$25.00	\$3.25	\$28.25

2. The Town Marriage Officiant will charge for travel and mileage costs at their discretion to attend a ceremony in locations outside the municipal boundary. There will also be an additional hourly fee over and above the approximate time allowed for a Civil Ceremony.
3. Fees are paid directly to the Marriage Officiant at the rate of: \$0.68 per kilometer from their residence to the ceremony location, and \$40 for every additional hour outside the standard service time offered.

Please Note: Fees referred to in Section 2 are separate and apart from the Town’s fees and as such shall be paid directly to the Marriage Officiant by the applicant.

4. Town fees are payable at the Front Desk of the Civic Centre at the time of booking. Please note the Civil Marriage Ceremony covers the use of the Council Chambers, however it does NOT include the fee for the Marriage License.
5. Fees may be paid by cheque, cash or debit card.
6. The Marriage Licence fee is: \$153.00 (no tax) for Town residents and Non-Residents.
7. The fee for use of the Civic Centre Council Chambers is as per above table.
8. Requests to change the date and/or time must be received a minimum of fourteen (14) days prior to the originally scheduled date and time. Approval of such request will be subject to the availability of our Town Marriage Officiant and the Civic Centre Council Chamber.
9. If a requests to change the date and/or time results in a Town Marriage Officiant and/or the Civic Centre Council Chamber no longer being available to conduct the Civil Marriage Ceremony, then the following Cancellation Policy applies.

CANCELLATION POLICY AND REFUNDS

- ❖ Cancellations made less than 14 days prior to the date of the original booked ceremony will result in full penalty – no refund, no exceptions.
- ❖ Cancellations made 14-30 days from the date of the original booked ceremony will be subject to a partial penalty - 50% refund.
- ❖ Cancellations made 30 days or more from the date of the original booked ceremony will receive a refund of their ceremony cost less a \$50 administration fee.
- ❖ Cancellations being a result of Applicants' requests to change the date and/or time is deemed and seen as a Cancellation, and the above time frames are applicable.

No refund will be issued if the applicant(s) fail to appear for the ceremony.

OTHER – PLEASE NOTE:

- There is no minimum age requirement for witnesses, however, it is suggested they be at least sixteen (16) years of age, as a witness should be able to understand and appreciate what is taking place and be able to give evidence of such at a later date, if required.
- It is the Applicant's responsibility to provide the witnesses.
- Should applicants require a confidential ceremony, witnesses may be provided for an additional fee.
- The Applicants are responsible to provide an Interpreter if they do not speak English and/or require language assistance.
- If requiring an Interpreter, the Interpreter cannot be one of the witnesses.
- If requiring an Interpreter, the Interpreter shall be required to sign a form confirming that they have interpreted the wedding ceremony. Any interpreter fees are the cost of the applicants.
- If personal vows are used, a copy is to be submitted to the Town Marriage Officiant for review. Please provide a written five (5) business days before the Civil Wedding Ceremony.

RECORD OF SOLEMNIZATION

The Record of Solemnization of Marriage provided at the ceremony by the Commissioner is not a legal record.

It is your responsibility to apply to the Office of the Registrar General (approximately 12 weeks after the ceremony) to obtain an official Certificate of Marriage.

You may submit the request online at the following website:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/how-get-copy-ontario-marriage-certificate-online>

It is not the TOWN Marriage Officiant's responsibility to apply for this Certificate and so in the meantime, the Record of Solemnization (part of the Marriage Licence) is provided at the ceremony.

MARRIAGE CEREMONY GUIDELINES

1. Ceremonies will be conducted by the Town Clerk or Deputy Clerk and ceremonies may be held in the Town Civic Centre and within the boundaries of the Township of Fort Frances and the surrounding nearby areas, subject to approval and confirmation by the Town Clerk or Deputy Clerk.
2. If the ceremony is to be held anywhere else within the Rainy River area, further approvals will be required.
3. It is preferred that a request for a Civil Marriage Ceremony be received by the Town Clerk's Office a minimum of seven (7) days prior to the date of the Ceremony.
4. Requests to change date and/or time must be received a minimum of fourteen (14) days prior to the originally scheduled date & time. Approval of the request will be subject to the availability of the Town marriage Officiant and if applicable, the Council Chamber in the Civic Centre.
5. Plan to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the ceremony to allow time for review of final details.
6. Music deemed appropriate for the occasion by the Town Marriage Officiant will be allowed.
7. The Pre-ceremony meeting with the Town Marriage Officiant lasts approximately 30 minutes and is to be scheduled at least three (3) days prior to the ceremony. Please note that during the busy summer wedding season officiants will not meet with couples weeks in advance of their ceremonies. Should you require an earlier meeting, special arrangements may be made if needed depending on availability.

Please ensure you have the following available for the Commissioner at this meeting:

- Details on ceremony (ie. Flowers, vows, rings, readings, number in wedding party).
 - If specific vows are to be included, provide a copy to the Town Marriage Officiant.
 - If an Interpreter is to be used, provide an applicable form to the Town Marriage Officiant with details.
 - Provide a valid Marriage Licence issued in the Province of Ontario (date issued must be within 3 months of the ceremony). It is preferred **only the couple** meets with the Marriage Commissioner during this session.
8. In order to maintain the dignity of the Civil Marriage Ceremony appropriate clothing should be worn for the occasion.
 9. Photographs during the Ceremony may be taken should the couple so desire as well as during the signing of the Register, and/or when the ceremony is complete. Videotaping of the Ceremony may be permitted subject to certain limitations at the discretion of the Town Marriage Officiant.
 10. Alcohol or stimulants are NOT to be used by the Applicants or witnesses prior to, or during the Ceremony.
 11. The Town Office Council Chamber is available for civil marriage ceremonies that are booked between Monday and Friday at 320 Portage Ave, Fort Frances between the hours of 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Services at the Town Office Council Chamber on weekends, civic or statutory holidays may be available, subject to the availability and approval of the Town Marriage Officiant.
 12. Civil marriage ceremonies can be held seven days a week at other locations within the Town jurisdiction, subject to the availability and approval of the Town Marriage Officiant.

In addition to the guidelines above, the following rules shall apply for bookings of the Town Office Council Chambers:

13. When the Council Chambers are being utilized, music will be permitted throughout the ceremony, and is to be determined during the pre-ceremony meeting. When selecting the type of music, considerations should be given to its appropriateness and contribution to the dignity of the occasion, and the Marriage Commissioner reserves the right to decide such appropriateness.
14. A maximum of 30 guests can be accommodated in the Chambers.
15. Confetti, rice, bubbles, etc. are NOT allowed in the Council Chambers or on municipal grounds. If you wish, the Town will provide silk flower arrangements in the Chambers.
16. Minimal decorations are permitted in the Council Chambers (ex. Flowers, balloons). They may be placed 15 minutes prior to the ceremony and removed within 15 minutes of the conclusion of the ceremony. Decorations that require to be affixed to walls or furniture (ex. Tape, staples, nails, etc.) are NOT permitted.
17. The Applicants, as the renters of the Council Chambers for the Civil Marriage Ceremony, hereby consent to defend and indemnify The Corporation of the Town of Fort Frances for any loss or damages incurred by their invitees, The Applicants agree that The Corporation of the of Fort Frances will not be held responsible for personal injury or damage, nor for the theft or loss of any personal property of anyone attending on the invitation of the Applicants.
18. The renter shall be responsible for the conduct and supervision of all persons admitted to Council Chambers and shall see that all regulations pertaining to the event are strictly followed.
19. The Council Chambers may only be used for civil marriage ceremonies conducted by a TOWN Marriage Officiant. The Chambers will only be made available for a maximum of thirty (30) minutes.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What documents are needed for our Marriage Licence?

Before meeting with the Town Marriage Officiant, you should have completed and paid for your Ontario Marriage Licence (if it is within 3 months of the ceremony), which you will show to the Town Marriage Officiant. The onus is on you, not the Town Marriage Officiant, to have your Marriage Licence at the ceremony.

Steps to apply for a marriage licence include:

- a) Review the requirements listed below
- b) Download and complete the Marriage Licence application form
<http://www.ontario.ca/government/getting-married>
<https://fortfrances.ca/town/administration-finance/marriage-licence>
- c) Ensure the application is signed and dated by both partners
- d) Bring the application to the Deputy Clerk at the Town Office
- e) Bring two (2) pieces of original and valid identification for each partner (*see valid ID information below*).
- f) Either partner can apply for the licence, if the application has been dated and signed by both and the required identification is in hand. Both partners do not need to be present as long as the other partner has all the required documents, ID for both, and the signed application by both.
- g) Pay the licence fee.

Identification

Each partner must submit two (2) pieces of valid and original identification:

- The name on both pieces must be the same
- The first name and last name must match
- To have the middle name included on your marriage licence, it must also appear on both items
- If your identification is not in English, a written translation from a certified translator is required

Acceptable VALID and ORIGINAL identification

- Birth Certificate
- Passport
- Drivers Licence
- Ontario Photo Card
- Status Card (of Indian Status)
- Certificate of Canadian Citizenship (Canadian Citizenship Card)
- Canadian Government Refugee Travel Document
- Conditional Release Identification Card
- United States Green Card
- Record of Immigration Landing

- Permanent Residency Card
- Nexus Card
- Identity Card from any country
- Citizenship Card from any country
- Firearms Acquisition Certificate (FAC)
- Possession & Acquisition Licence (PAL)

NOT accepted as identification

- Ontario Health Card
- Social Insurance Number (SIN) Card

Previous Marriage Documentation – Divorced in Canada

An **original** (not photocopy) or a certified copy of the Final Decree Absolute or Certificate of Divorce must be submitted with the application. Certification must be obtained through the Court where the divorce was granted. An original copy would have a colour seal or an embossed seal.

If divorced outside of Canada, please contact our Town staff for assistance.

2. Who may officiate at our wedding?

The Province of Ontario gives the power to marry to the Municipal Clerk. That Clerk may delegate their powers to what is deemed as a “Marriage Commissioner”. For a Civil Marriage, one of the Town’s appointed Commissioners may perform the ceremony; the Town Clerk or Deputy Clerk if required.

3. Can we get married at my cottage outside of Fort Frances?

Civil marriage ceremonies outside of the jurisdiction of the Town must be discussed and approved by the Town Marriage Officiant. If a Town Marriage Officiant cannot officiate due to the location of the ceremony, then it is the applicant’s responsibility to find another officiant.

4. Does the Town offer “same day service” for a Ceremony?

We will attempt to accommodate the couple, based on the availability of an officiant and location, i.e. availability of Council Chambers or alternate site.

5. Where can we hold our wedding?

The Town Office Council Chamber may only be used for civil marriage ceremonies conducted by a Town Marriage. Ceremonies that are to be held at Town Hall in the Council Chambers, based on availability.

6. Do we have to purchase our Ontario Licence in Fort Frances to be married in Fort Frances?

No. You may purchase an Ontario Marriage Licence anywhere in the Province of Ontario.

7. Are witnesses required for a Civil Marriage Ceremony?

Yes, all couples must have two (2) witnesses present during the ceremony, preferably over age 16.

8. May we include readings from the Bible or have a Blessing at our ceremony?

While the Town Marriage Officiant **may not** perform any type of religious ceremony in keeping with the spirit of the Ontario Marriage Act which requires civil ceremonies to be “non-denominational”, couples may wish to have someone other than the Town Marriage Officiant provide a reading or a blessing.

9. Will Marriage Commissioners marry same-sex partners?

Yes, there are constitutional requirements in Ontario to solemnize civil marriages of same-sex couples. The Town of Fort Frances is proud to officiate marriages for couples regardless of gender.

10. Who registers our Civil Marriage?

After the ceremony, all parties must sign the Record of Solemnization (to be retained by the couple) and Statement of Marriage (included on licence). The Town Clerk and/or Deputy Clerk will ensure completed documentation is mailed to the Office of the Registrar General following the ceremony.

MEET YOUR OFFICIANTS



Gabrielle Lecuyer

Municipal Clerk

(807) 274-5323 x1215

glecuyer@fortfrances.ca

Provides services in both English and French

Chelsea Greig

Communications Coordinator & Deputy Clerk

(807) 274-5323 x1212

cgreig@fortfrances.ca

Provides services in English



MARRIAGE CEREMONY OPTION #1

PURPOSE

We are gathered at this place for the purpose of joining in the legal state of matrimony (this man and this woman/these two people), under the authority given and provided by the Government of the Province of Ontario.

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.

Therefore 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.

Officiant to 1st person: Please repeat after me:

REPEAT (Person #1)

I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I _____, may not be joined in matrimony to _____.*

Officiant to 2nd person: Please repeat after me:

REPEAT (Person #2)

I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I _____, may not be joined in matrimony to _____.*

DECLARATION OF INTENT AND VOWS

Would you please face each other, join hands and repeat after me.

REPEAT (Person #1)

I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I _____, do take you _____, to be my lawful wedded (husband/wife/spouse/partner). *

REPEAT (Person #2)

I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I _____, do take you _____, to be my lawful wedded (husband/wife/spouse/partner). *

EXCHANGE OF RINGS

(Make provision for ring bearer)

This ring is a symbol of your marriage and a symbol of your love and life together.

REPEAT (Person #1)

Please place the ring on the third finger of _____'s left hand saying after me:
This ring I give you in token of the covenant made this day between us.

REPEAT (Person #2)

Please place the ring on the third finger of _____'s left hand saying after me:
This ring I give you in token of the covenant made this day between us.

As you wear these rings may you find them reminders of an endless love which may grow more meaningful with each passing day.

PRONOUNCEMENT

_____ and _____ have pledged themselves to each other and have declared this symbolically by their vows and the exchange of rings.

I _____, by the virtue of the powers vested in me by the Marriage Act, do hereby pronounce you _____ and _____ to be (husband and wife/married as partners in life). *

You may now exchange a kiss as a token of your love.

SIGNING OF THE REGISTER

At this time, the wedded parties and their witnesses will sign the Official Marriage Register.

May I introduce to you Mr. and Mrs. _____.

*** These lines must be spoken by officiant.**

MARRIAGE CEREMONY OPTION #2

PURPOSE

We are gathered at this place for the purpose of joining in the legal state of matrimony (this man and this woman/these two people), under the authority given and provided by the Government of the Province of Ontario.

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.

Therefore 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.

_____ and _____ you have made it known that you want to be joined in marriage and no one has shown any valid reason why you may not. If either of you know of any lawful impediment why you should not be married, you are now to declare it.

Officiant to 1st person: Please repeat after me:

REPEAT (Person #1)

I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I _____, may not be joined in matrimony to _____.*

Officiant to 2nd person: Please repeat after me:

REPEAT (Person #2)

I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I _____, may not be joined in matrimony to _____.*

Marriage is not a single event but, rather a developing process. Marriage is the faithful union between two persons, the result of which is the formation of a family unit whose members shall help, support and enjoy each other in good times and in bad times. It is this relationship these two persons wish to have declared and celebrate.

If either person is escorted forward, Officiant states:

Who is it that gives this (man/woman/these individuals) in marriage?

Answer: I/we do. (father, mother, children, relatives, etc.)

DECLARATION OF INTENT AND VOWS

Would you please face each other, join hands and repeat after me.

REPEAT (Person #1)

I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I _____, do take you _____, to be my lawful wedded (husband/wife/spouse/partner).* 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.

REPEAT (Person #2)

I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I _____, do take you _____, to be my lawful wedded (husband/wife/spouse/partner). *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.

EXCHANGE OF RINGS

(Make provision for ring bearer)

This ring is a symbol of your marriage and a symbol of your love and life together.

REPEAT (Person #1)

Please place the ring on the third finger of _____'s left hand saying after me:

With this ring, I thee wed. I shall love, honour and cherish thee and this ring is the symbol of my love. This ring is a symbol of your marriage and a symbol of your love and life together.

REPEAT (Person #2)

Please place the ring on the third finger of _____'s left hand saying after me:

With this ring, I thee wed. I shall love, honour and cherish thee and this ring is the symbol of my love.

As you wear these rings may you find them reminders of an endless love which may grow more meaningful with each passing day.

PRONOUNCEMENT

_____ and _____ have pledged themselves to each other and have declared this symbolically by their vows and the exchange of rings.

I _____, by the virtue of the powers vested in me by the Marriage Act, do hereby pronounce you _____ and _____ to be (husband and wife/married as partners in life). *

You may now exchange a kiss as a token of your love.

May you enjoy length of days, fulfillment of hopes and peace and contentment of mind, as you day by day live and fulfill the terms of this covenant you have made with one another. I wish you happiness and prosperity and may the vows you made to each other today, sustain you forever.

SIGNING OF THE REGISTER

At this time, the wedded parties and their witnesses will sign the Official Marriage Register

May I introduce to you Mr. and Mrs. _____.

*** These lines must be spoken by officiant.**

MARRIAGE CEREMONY OPTION #3

OPENING

We are gathered here today in the presence of friends and family, not to witness the beginning of what will be, but rather what already is. _____ and _____ are committing themselves to each other in marriage. Today's ceremony will be a continuation of that ceremony and will finalize their vows and make legal their marriage.

I first like to welcome and thank everyone for being here today. Your love and support surely means a lot to this new couple. I have been asked by _____ and _____ to thank their parents, _____ for the wonderful lives they have given them, for the hard work and guidance they have provided, for their everlasting love, support, and encouragement. It is from them that they have learned the true meaning of love, friendship and family. *** choose opening – don't need the two paragraphs

INTRO

The marriage between _____ and _____ is not the beginning of a new relationship; rather, it is an acknowledgement and celebration of a relationship that has been flourishing since they met.

Marriage has been described as living in love with your best friend – precisely the way _____ and _____ see their relationship. Love is one of the few constants in the universe. It is reality, affinity, and communication. Only love is capable of joining living beings by their deepest essence, uniting, completing, and fulfilling them.

You have chosen to walk through life together. There is no truer statement of love. The choice was not made by any one moment, but by being together you grew to realize that you belonged together and that you fulfilled each other's needs and desires. You have come to thrive upon each other's presence, loyalty and wisdom. The commitment you make today will be the foundation on which you will build your lives together.

_____ and _____ would you please face each other and join your hands.

REPEAT (Person #1)

I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I _____, may not be joined in matrimony to _____.*

Officiant to 2nd person: Please repeat after me:

REPEAT (Person #2)

I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I _____, may not be joined in matrimony to _____.*

VOWS

_____, as I say these words, would you please repeat after me...

I love you _____. You are my best friend. Today I, _____, give myself to you, _____ in marriage. I promise to encourage and inspire you, to laugh with you, and to comfort you in times of sorrow and struggle. I promise to love you in good times and in bad, when life seems easy and when it seems hard, when our love is simple, and when it is an effort. I promise to cherish you, and to always respect you and our love. These things I promise you today, I promise with all of my heart.

I call upon these persons present here,..... to witness that I, _____,..... do take you, _____,....., to be my lawful wedded wife.*

_____ As I say these words, would you please repeat after me...

I love you _____. You are my best friend. Today I, _____, give myself to you, _____ in marriage. I promise to encourage and inspire you, to laugh with you, and to comfort you in times of sorrow and struggle. I promise to love you in good times and in bad, when life seems easy and when it seems hard, when our love is simple, and when it is an effort. I promise to cherish you, and to always respect you and our love. These things I promise you today, I promise with all of my heart.

I call upon these persons present here,..... to witness that I, _____,..... do take you, _____,....., to be my lawful wedded Husband*.

In addition to the vows they just made to each other, _____ and _____ have prepared a few vows of their own.

_____ **VOWS**
_____ **VOWS**

THE RINGS

_____ and _____ your rings are intimately associated with your intent to honour and treasure the vows you have made today. By exchanging rings, you resolve to live your vows and not to let them drift in shallow promises. Believe and trust that the words you have spoken have the capacity to create the marriage, family and life of your dreams, and that the rings you exchange will have the power to return you to your vows.

_____ as you place this ring on _____ finger, please repeat after me.

_____, I give you this ring, as a sign of our marriage, and a lasting reminder, of the vows made between us today. I give you this ring, as a reminder that I will love, honour, and cherish you, in all times, in all places, and in all ways, forever.

_____, if you accept please say "I Do".

_____ as you place this ring on _____ finger please repeat after me.

_____, I give you this ring, as a sign of our marriage, and a lasting reminder, of the vows made between us today. I give you this ring, as a reminder that I will love, honour, and cherish you, in all times, in all places, and in all ways, forever.

_____, if you accept please say "I Do".

HAND CEREMONY

As an expression that you are joined together in love – will you please hold each other's hands, so you may feel the gift that you are to each other.

These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and full of love for you, that are holding yours on your wedding day as you promise to love each other today, tomorrow, and during your lifetime of happiness.

These are the hands that will work alongside yours as together you build your future. These are the hands that will comfort you in illness, and hold you when fear or grief engulfs your heart.

These are the hands that will wipe the tears from your eyes; tears of sorrow and tears of joy. These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it.

These are the hands that will give you support as you follow your dreams. These are the hands that will tenderly hold your children.

These are the hands that will create a loving home for your family.

And lastly, these are the hands that even when wrinkled and aged will still be reaching for yours, and still be true to the vows you made today.

COMMITMENT OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Ladies and Gentlemen, _____ and _____ have demonstrated in your presence today, their belief in their love, and their desire to live together in matrimony. If you also believe in their love, and wish to add your blessing on their marriage today, please respond now by saying WE DO.

And are you willing to sustain and strengthen their marriage, by giving _____ and _____ the commitment of your love and support, through all the ups and downs ahead of them.....If you are willing, please say WE ARE

PRONOUNCEMENT

I, _____, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Marriage Act, do hereby pronounce you _____ and _____ to be husband and wife.*

SIGNING OF THE REGISTER

At this time I would ask the bride, groom and their witnesses to please sign the Official Marriage Register.

Now that you have joined yourselves in marriage, may you strive always to meet this commitment with the same spirit and enthusiasm you are now shining.

By the powers invested in me by the Marriage Act of Ontario, I now pronounce you husband and wife. You may kiss the bride.

It is my pleasure to introduce to you Mr. and Mrs _____.

MARRIAGE CEREMONY OPTION #4

Opening

On behalf of _____ and _____ and their families.....welcome to the many friends and family who join them today.

Friends and family, we are here today to witness and to celebrate the marriage of _____ and _____ and to be with them as they pledge themselves to each other.

Intro

They have asked all of you to be with them today because each of you has played some role in bringing them to this special day. As you have up until this moment, please continue to support and encourage them, as they continue their journey together. Your friendship and love will always be appreciated and they thank you for sharing this important day with them. This day is a celebration. It is a celebration of the love that two people have for one another, and it is a celebration of a new beginning through their journey as a married couple, husband and wife.

Theirs is a partnership freely chosen and founded on love, friendship, trust and respect. A partnership that encourages not only self-Expression, understanding and the development of wisdom through the sharing of knowledge, but also an

enthusiasm for life and living. It must be done with respect, consideration and a deep and gentle caring for one another.

You are the people with whom they want to share their joy as they enter into marriage and they hope that, in the years ahead, your love will be a continuous source of strength for them.

_____ and _____.....

You are here today with your family and friends to publicly declare your love for one another. Do you pledge to treat each other with kindness, respect and compassion; to listen to each other, and to speak to each other with honesty always?

_____ and _____: We do

Marriage is a way of life that none should lightly undertake.

If anyone present knows a reason why _____ and _____ may not lawfully marry, you must declare it now.

_____ and _____ if either of you knows a reason why you may not lawfully marry, you must also declare it now.

Repeat after me.....

_____ I do solemnly declarethat I do not know ofany lawful impediment..... why I, _____may not be joined in matrimonyto _____.*

_____ I do solemnly declarethat I do not know of..... any lawful impediment..... why I, _____may not be joined in matrimonyto _____.*

The Wedding and Vows

(_____ and _____ face each other and join hands)

Today you are dedicating yourselves to that most fragile of all endeavours; a human relationship. The words spoken in this ceremony will not validate your marriage unless your love and your commitment to one another are strong enough to sustain it. You have both travelled a long road together, bringing families together and building a life together. Today, you finalize that commitment to one another as you take the vows before you.

_____, has prepared his own Vows:

_____ has prepared her own Vows:

_____ **.....Repeat after me...**

I call upon these persons present here,..... to witness that I, _____,..... do take you, _____,....., to be my lawful wedded wife.

_____ **...Repeat after me...**

I call upon these persons present here,..... to witness that I, _____,....., do take you, _____,....., to be my lawful wedded husband

To your wedding ceremony we bring joy, happiness, and the hopes and dreams for a marriage filled with life, love and laughter. Your wedding day will be remembered as one of the most joyful days of your life and may you continue your journey together with the support and love of your family and friends here today.

_____ and _____, from this day forward, may you continue to live together in love, peace and happiness; may you grow each day in understanding and compassion. When you are apart, may you return to one another in togetherness.

Rings

May I have the rings please?

The perfect circle of a ring symbolizes eternity. It has no beginning and no end. In these rings it is the symbol of unity, in which your lives are now joined in one unbroken circle, in which, wherever you go, you will always return to one another and to your togetherness.

May they remind you always of the vows you have taken today and of the promises that have been made.

_____ : Place the ring on _____ finger, hold it there and say these words to her.

_____, with all my love I give you this ring,an everlasting symbol of the vows..... we have made to each other,..... and as a token of my love for you.

_____ : Place the ring on _____ finger, hold it there and say these words to him.

_____, with all my love I give you this ring,an everlasting symbol of the vows..... we have made to each other,..... and as a token of my love for you _____ and _____... take a moment to look at your rings, and then look at all of these people who have gathered here for you. Take a good look around—you only get one chance; it goes by very fast. These people believe in you and in your marriage. Here are the people you can share your joys with and lean on in hard times. May all that you are, always be in love; may all that is love, always be in you. May your love be as beautiful on each day you share as it is on this day of celebration, and may each day you share be as precious to you as the day you first fell in love. May you always see and encourage the best in each other. May the challenges that life brings your way make your marriage even stronger, and may you always be each other's best friend and greatest love.

The Declaration of Marriage

_____ *and* _____ you have chosen each other in love and freedom. You have declared your purpose before your family and friends gathered here today and you have made your pledges one to the other.

By virtue of the powers invested in me by the Province of Ontario and by the Marriage Act, I (Officiant) pronounce you _____ and _____ to be husband and wife.*

You may Kiss

I will call upon the witness and we will proceed to signing the register we will return to you momentarily.

Registers

Following the signing:

It is my pleasure to introduce the newly married couple

Mr and Mrs _____

*** These lines must be spoken by officiant.**