

Wedding Scripts

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Essentials. (according to the Ontario Marriage Act)

a) Question of Impediment (“Are you here freely without impediment?”)

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

b) Declaration of Intent (the “I Do’s”)

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

c) The signing of the registry.

By virtue of the powers vested in me by the (Province/*Marriage Act*,) I do hereby pronounce you _____ to be married,

d) The Pronouncement (declaring you are now married)

These all must happen in front of two adult witnesses, in this order, everything else is padding and window dressing that can be sprinkled in in-between.

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## The following can be added/mixed in as desired

### Opening /Welcome

### Context - Marriage is about ...

### Love Story - magical moments from your relationship thus far

### Reading(s)

### Songs (in addition to Processional, Signing the Registry, & Exit).

### Exchange of Rings

### Unity Ritual(s) see my website or internet for a dozen different ideas.

### Hug/Kiss

### Photo opportunity for guests

### Applause from audience

### Second Kiss - because - why not.

### Closing Blessing

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## Vegas Elopement 'Get-err done' style with Ontario requirements.

Welcome: Thanks for being here.

Officiant: Are you here freely, without impediment, to be joined in matrimony to \_\_\_\_\_,

Intended: I am

*Repeat for other*

Officiant: Are you here freely, without impediment, to be joined in matrimony to \_\_\_\_\_,

Intended: I am

Officiant: Do you \_\_\_\_\_ call upon those present as witnesses that you \_\_\_\_ take \_\_\_\_ to be your lawful wedded wife (partner/ spouse)

Intended: I do

*Repeat for other*

Officiant: Do you \_\_\_\_\_ call upon those present as witnesses that you \_\_\_\_ take \_\_\_\_ to be your lawful wedded husband (partner/ spouse)

Intended: I do

### *Sign Registry*

Officiant: By the powers vested in my by the Province, I do hereby pronounce you \_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_ to be married. (partners, husband & wife,)

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## A Sweet, Secular Ceremony Script

### INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Good afternoon/evening everyone!

From this place (here the minister or officiant should describe something about your chosen ceremony venue/location, about the significance or beauty of the location), we take ourselves out of the usual routines of daily living to witness a unique moment in the lives of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Today they join their lives in the union of marriage.

To all their guests, they are happy to share this moment with you. They have known most of you for many years. You watched them grow up, you went to school with them, or you worked with them. Because you are the ones who have supported them and known them so well, it is only fitting that you are the ones to share this once-in-a-lifetime moment with them.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are pleased to have their parents in the front row...close to them for the ceremony.

\_\_\_\_\_ thanks her mother for providing her with every opportunity possible and being the best mother anyone could ask for.

\_\_\_\_\_ appreciates all the love and support his parents gave him over the years.

A wedding day is often a day when couples miss family members no longer with them. For \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, there are family members whose memories they hold dear.

(Here you can insert references to loved ones that have passed away. Or you can mention loved ones that couldn't be present for other reasons.)

And so it is that \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ present themselves to be married today...surrounded by the people they love the most.

Officiant:

As \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ prepared for the ceremony part of this wedding celebration, they reflected on what it is that they love about each other. And this was was the easiest part of planning this wedding!

To the Groom:

\_\_\_\_\_ (Groom's name), \_\_\_\_\_ (Bride's name) loves that you blend in so comfortably with her family. She sees in you a funny, kind, and sweet man. She loves that you think she is funny and that you always find a way to compliment her. (replace with your favourite traits)

She loves that you always want to be close to her. You remember details of the stories she tells. You want to be part of her family and circle of friends. You help her around the house. Most importantly, you are so close that even when she is at her worst, you have never made her feel like you want anything but to be closer to her. (replace with your favourite traits)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Bride's name), \_\_\_\_\_(Groom's name) loves that you \_\_\_\_\_(fill in the blank). He loves your brain, your smile, and your beauty. He appreciates that you are "low maintenance." He likes that you can be really silly. He loves your emails and texts. He loves your cooking. He loves your kisses. He just really loves you! (replace with your favourite traits)

You both look to a shared future that includes raising a happy & healthy family. That future also includes a richly lived life together...going out to restaurants, hanging out with family, relaxing at home in front of the TV, singing and dancing...Bride will do the singing, and Groom will do the dancing.

The years will come and go...you won't take each other for granted, you will laugh a lot, you will be the best parents you can be, you will grow older and wiser together. It's a good story, with no ending in sight!

(Optional Reading)

## **MARRIAGE VOWS:**

Officiant:

We come now to the words \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ want to hear the most today...the words that take them across the threshold from being engaged to being married.

A marriage, as most of us understand it, is a voluntary and full commitment. It is made in the deepest sense to the exclusion of all others, and it is entered into with the desire and hope that it will last for life.

Before you declare your vows to one another, I want to hear you confirm that it is indeed your intention to be married today.

\_\_\_\_\_, do you come here freely and without reservation to give yourself to \_\_\_\_\_ in marriage? If so, answer "I do."

Groom:  
I do.

Officiant:

\_\_\_\_\_, do you come here freely and without reservation to give yourself to \_\_\_\_\_ in marriage? If so, answer "I do."

Bride:  
I do.

Officiant:

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, having heard that it is your intention to be married to each other, I now ask you to declare your marriage vows.

Please face each other and hold hands.

Officiant:  
Groom, please repeat after me...

I, \_\_\_\_\_ take you, \_\_\_\_\_ to be my wife.

I will share my life with yours,  
and build our dreams together,  
Support you through times of trouble,  
and rejoice with you in times of happiness.  
I promise to give you  
respect, love and loyalty.  
This commitment is made in love,  
kept in faith,  
lived in hope,  
and made new every day of our lives.

Officiant:  
Bride, please repeat after me...

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my husband.

I will share my life with yours,  
Build our dreams together,  
Support you through times of trouble,  
and rejoice with you in times of happiness.  
I promise to give you  
respect, love and loyalty.  
This commitment is made in love,  
kept in faith,  
lived in hope,  
and made new every day of our lives.

## EXCHANGE WEDDING RINGS

Officiant:

Your wedding ring are the outward and visible sign of the inward and invisible bond which already unites you two hearts in love.

Groom, place the ring on Bride's finger and repeat after me....

I give you this ring.  
Wear it with love and joy.

As this ring has no end,  
My love is also forever.

Bride, place the ring on Groom's finger and repeat after me....

I give you this ring.  
Wear it with love and joy.

As this ring has no end,  
My love is also forever.

May the wedding rings you exchanged today remind you always that you are surrounded by enduring love.

Officiant:

Everyone has advice for newlyweds. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, I offer these good wishes to you on this special day.

May your life together be blessed with prosperity and good health. May you always share open and honest communication between each other. May you respect each other's individual talents and gifts and give full support to each other's professional and personal pursuits.

May you cherish the home and family you will create together. May all the years to come be filled with moments to celebrate and renew your love. May your love be a life-long source of excitement, contentment, affection, respect, and devotion for one another.

### **DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE**

Officiant:

And so now by the power vested in me by \_\_\_\_\_, it is my honour and delight to declare you husband and wife. You may seal this declaration with a kiss.

Officiant:

I am pleased to present the newlyweds, Mr. and Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_!

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## Super Simple (and Short) Civil Ceremony.

### **WELCOME REMARKS:**

Welcome, family, friends and loved ones. We are gathered here today, surrounded by the beauty of creation and nurtured by the sights and sounds of nature to celebrate the wedding of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

You have come here from near and from far away to share in this commitment now they make to one another, to offer your love and support to their union, and to allow \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to start their married life together surrounded by the people dearest and most important to them.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ thank you for your presence here today. They ask for your blessing, encouragement and lifelong support, for their marriage and life shared together. They also remember other loved ones who cannot be here to share this moment.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, marriage is the promise between two people who love each other, who trust that love, who honour one another as individuals in that togetherness, and who wish to spend the rest of their lives together. It enables the two separate souls to share their desires, longings, dreams, and memories, their joys and sorrows, and to help each other through all uncertainties of life.

A strong marriage also nurtures each of you as separate individuals and allows you to maintain your unique identity and grow in your own way through the years ahead. It is a safe haven for each of you to become your best self.

You are adding to your life not only the affection of each other, but also the companionship and blessing of a deep trust. You are agreeing to share strength, responsibilities and love. It takes more than love to make this relationship work.

It takes trust, to know in your hearts that you want only the best for each other. It takes dedication, to stay open to one another, to learn and grow, even when it is difficult to do so. And it takes faith, to go forward together without knowing what the future holds for you both.

### **DECLARATION OF INTENT AND SHARING OF VOWS**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, please join hands, look at one another now and remember this moment in time.

Officiant: Groom, do you take Bride to be your wife? I do.

Officiant: Bride, do you take Groom to be your husband? I do.

Officiant: \_\_\_\_\_, please take \_\_\_\_\_'s hand and repeat after me.

\_\_\_\_\_, I take you as you are/ loving who you are / I promise from this day forward/ To be grateful for our love and our life/ To be generous with my time, my energy and my affection/ To be patient with you and with myself/ To fill our life with adventure and our home with laughter/ To inspire you to grow as an individual / To love you completely/ These things I pledge to you

Officiant: \_\_\_\_\_, please take \_\_\_\_\_'s hand and repeat after me.

\_\_\_\_\_, I take you as you are,/ loving who you are/ I promise from this day forward/ To be grateful for our love and our life/ To be generous with my time, my energy and my affection/ To be patient with you and with myself/ To fill our life with adventure and our home with laughter/ To encourage you to grow as an individual / To love you completely/ These things I pledge to you

## GIVING OF RINGS

Officiant: Please present the rings

Your wedding ring is a symbol of your promise to one another. The ring, an unbroken, never ending circle, is a symbol of committed, unending love.

\_\_\_\_\_, as you place this ring on Bride's finger, repeat these words after me:  
This ring symbolizes my love for you/ and the commitments we made today

\_\_\_\_\_, as you place this ring on Groom's finger, repeat these words after me:  
This ring symbolizes my love for you/ and the commitments we made today

## CONCLUSION & PRONOUNCEMENT

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, you have come here today of your own free will and in the presence of family and friends, have declared your love and commitment to each other. You have given and received a ring as a symbol of your promises. By the power of your love and commitment to each other, and by the power vested in me, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

You may now share your first kiss as husband and wife.

Congratulations. Friends and family, I now present to you the newly married couple. Let's hear it for 'em!

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## A Civil Ceremony –

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Welcome! Good afternoon, family and friends. We have come here today to celebrate the wedding of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. On behalf of the bride and groom, thank you for joining us. By your presence, you celebrate with them the love they have discovered in each other, and you support their decision to commit themselves to a lifelong relationship.

### OPENING (Sample) George Eliott

What great thing is there for two human souls  
than to feel that they are joined together  
to strengthen each other in all labour  
to minister to each other in all sorrow,  
to share with each other in all gladness,  
and to be one with each other,  
in the silent unspoken memories.

Marriage is a bond to be entered into only after considerable thought and reflection. By making this commitment today, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_'s relationship will become stronger, better, and deeper.

Today, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ demonstrate their devotion to each other by dedicating themselves to a life together and they show their respect for each other. By setting forth to honour the vows they have created today, their lives, which began on separate paths, will be joined as one.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF FAMILY & FRIENDS

Today represents not only the joining of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ but also the joining of their families and friends.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ would like to recognize their parents on this occasion. They offer their profound gratitude for all the love and care their parents showed in raising them. The unconditional gifts of love and support that you have continually offered have inspired them to become who they are today. Without you, this day would not be possible.

\_\_\_\_\_ have also asked that we take a moment to honour those loved ones who are not with us today

[Names of those acknowledged here]

### MARRIAGE ADDRESS

Deep abiding affection, the magical and compelling shared impulse that makes us seek each others' company, is among the greatest gifts of the human experience.

Any of us who has been fortunate enough to find and express the kind of loving devotion that we are celebrating here today knows that it is an awesome and beautiful thing.

At this time, I would like to share 3 suggestions with the both of you:

My first suggestion is this:

Be constantly grateful for this precious person who has chosen to make a life with you.



My second suggestion is this:

Be generous with compliments. Be attentive and helpful. The world can be a tough place and any of us can be subject to rough handling. Each of you can, by your tenderness toward each other,

kind words and thoughtful actions, make your marriage and your home an uplifting refuge.

Last, but perhaps most importantly:

Make truth the unfailing bedrock of your lives together. A happy, loving marriage is built on trust and respect. That trust and respect can only be sustained if you are both deeply committed to always being open and truthful in every exchange no matter how small.

My hope for you is this:

That you have many long years to delight in each other's company, to feel gratitude for your great fortune in having found each other.

To a make home together that is at once sheltering and welcoming, to each do meaningful, productive work at home and in the world and to love and be loved by the friends and family who have come here today to support you

#### MARRIAGE STATEMENT OF INTENT/CONSENT

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, do you, present yourselves willingly and of your own accord to be joined in marriage?

We do.

Will you promise to care for each other in the joys and sorrows of life, come what may, and to share the responsibility for growth and enrichment of your life together?

We do.

Then please turn to each other and share your vows.

#### VOWS

Today I promise you/that though the world may change/

and though we may change with it/

I will always love you/always treasure you/and will share all that I am with you/

I am proud, from this day forward/to be called your wife/husband

#### RING EXCHANGE

For thousands of years, men and women have exchanged rings as a token of their vows.

Let these rings be a sign that your love has a past, a present, and a future.

\_\_\_\_\_, take \_\_\_\_\_'s ring and place it on her finger and repeat after me:

I give you this ring/as a sign that I choose you/

To be my wife/my partner/and my best friend/to the end of my days.

The love already shared by your hearts has been strengthened by the vows you have taken and the rings you have now exchanged.

#### PRONOUNCEMENT

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\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, we have heard your promise to share your lives in marriage. In the honesty and sincerity of what you have said and done here today, and in accordance with the laws of the Province of Ontario it is my honour and delight to declare you henceforth to be husband and wife.

You may seal your vows with a kiss.

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## Lighter Civil Ceremony

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Welcome! \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have brought us together here for an occasion of great joy and a cause for great celebration. Having found each other, they have built the kind of relationship that will serve them well as the foundation for their marriage. They have chosen each one of you to be here with them to witness their wedding vows as they join together as husband and wife.

Marriage is a bold step into an unknown future. It is risking who we are for the sake of who we can be. In marriage, two lives are intimately shared; and the blending of the two must not diminish either one. Rather, it should enhance the individuality of each partner.

Each of us knows that a marriage is not created by a law or a ceremony; rather it occurs in the hearts of two human beings. It grows out of loving, caring, and sharing ourselves with another. This ceremony is not magic, it will not create a relationship that does not already exist and has not already been celebrated in all the commitments \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have made to each other, both large and small, in the days since they first met and recognized their connection to one another.

So, in witnessing this ceremony today, we are observing only an outward sign of an inward union that already exists between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. This ceremony is a symbol of how far they have come together and a symbol of the promise that they will make to each other to continue to live their lives together and to love each other solely and above all others.

There are only two official witnesses at a wedding but each and every person here today will witness the words that they will speak to one another and the vows that they will make. You should take good care to remember these words; for a marriage needs the help of a community, of friends and family who will be there when needed and will do all that they can during hard times to stand by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and offer their support to them and the new family that they create today. May you always do all within your power to support the union that will be made here today and to nurture the bond between these two people whom you love.

If the old fairy-tale ending “and they lived happily ever after...” is taken to mean “They felt for the next fifty years exactly as they felt the day before they were married,” then it says what probably never was nor ever would be true, and would be highly undesirable if it were. Who could bear to live in that excitement for even five years? What would become of your work, your appetite, your sleep, and your friendships? But, of course, ceasing to be “in love” need not mean ceasing to love.

Love in this second sense—love as distinct from “being in love” and it is not merely a feeling. Love is a deep unity, maintained by the will and deliberately strengthened by habit; reinforced by the grace which both partners receive from God. They can have this love for each other even at those moments when they do not like each other; as you love yourself even when you do not like yourself. They can retain this love even when each could easily allow themselves to be “in love” with someone else. “Being in love” first moved them to promise fidelity but this quieter love enables them to keep the promise. It is on this love that the engine of marriage is run: being in love was the explosion that started it.

### DECLARATION OF INTENT

A successful marriage is not something that just happens. It takes work, it takes patience, and it takes time. It takes a commitment from both of you... a commitment to do whatever it takes to make your relationship thrive and not just simply survive.

\_\_\_\_\_, will you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your lawfully wedded wife and travel the rest of life's road with her? Will you love her, laugh with her, comfort her, honour and protect her, and forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?  
I do.

\_\_\_\_\_, will you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your lawfully wedded husband and travel the rest of life's road with him? Will you love him, laugh with him, comfort him, honour and protect him, and forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?  
I do.

## **EXCHANGE OF VOWS**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, the symbolic vows that you are about to make are a way of saying to one another, "You know all those things we've promised and hoped and dreamed- well, I meant it all, every word." Before this moment you have been many things to one another- acquaintance, friend, companion, lover, and even teacher, for you have learned much from one another in these last few years. Now you shall say a few words and things will never quite be the same between you. For after these vows, you shall say to the world, this – is my husband, this – is my wife.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, choose you, \_\_\_\_\_ In the presence of our friends & families, To be my wife/husband and partner from this day forward; To love you, To be a comfort and safe haven in your life, To hold you close, To listen deeply when you speak, To uphold you with my strength, To weigh the effects of the words I speak And the things I do, To never take you for granted, And to always give thanks For your presence in my life.

## **RING EXCHANGE**

This is the point in the ceremony when people talk about the wedding bands being a perfect circle, having no beginning and no end. But we all know that these rings have a beginning. Rock is dug up from the earth. Metals are liquefied in a furnace at a thousand degrees. The hot metal is forged, cooled, and then painstakingly polished. Something beautiful made from raw elements.

Love is like that. It comes from humble beginnings, made by imperfect beings. It is the process of making something beautiful where there was once nothing at all.

The promises which you have spoken to each other today are inscribed forever in your minds, in your hearts. But words are fleeting so let these rings serve as a reminder of the feelings you have in your hearts at this very moment.

Now, Repeat after me: Groom (and then Bride), with this ring I am giving you my promise/to always love you/ cherish you/honour you and comfort you. I promise that I will love you/and keep my heart open to you/all the days of my life.

## **DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, no one but you can declare yourselves married. You have begun it here today in speaking your vows before your family and friends and you will do it again in the days and years to come, standing by each other, sharing all that is sweet and bitter in life. Each tender act, each loving word will be the declaration of what was made here today.

Therefore, it is my joyful responsibility to officially acknowledge your union as "Husband and Wife". You may now seal your marriage with a kiss.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my privilege to present to you for the very first time as husband and wife,