

Standard marriage service



VICTORIAN
MARRIAGE REGISTRY TM



Bridal party entry (optional)

If the bride has been presented by a family member or friend.

Celebrant:

Who brings this woman to be married to this man?

Family member/friend:

I do.

Introduction

Celebrant:

Welcome family and friends.

We have come together today to witness the promises in marriage of [Groom's full legal name] and [Bride's full legal name].

This commitment is between two people who love each other and wish to share each other's lives, who will grow and change in the years to come, welcoming each other's growth with mutual love and respect.

Love means sharing whatever life presents.

(Or:

This ceremony gives social recognition to a union that has already taken place in the hearts of [Groom's full legal name] and [Bride's full legal name])

My name is [Celebrant's full name] and I have the privilege and the authority by law to officiate at your marriage today. I take this opportunity to wish you both much happiness in your future lives together.

Declaration

Celebrant:

[Groom's name] and [Bride's name], do you declare before me and before your witnesses here present, that you come here voluntarily and without reservation and that you are free by law to be married to each other today?

Groom and Bride respond:

Yes, I do.

First Reading (optional)

Couples can ask a family member, friend or the celebrant to give the reading. Choose a reading of your own if you prefer.

Traditional Apache Wedding Prayer

Now you will feel no rain
For each of you will be shelter to the other.
Now you will feel no cold
For each of you will be warmth to the other.
Now there is no more loneliness
For each of you will be companion to the other.
Now you are two bodies
But there is one life before you.
Go now to your dwelling place
To enter into the days of your togetherness
And may your days be good and long upon this earth.

Monitum from the Marriage Act

Celebrant:

Before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of these witnesses, I am to remind you of the solemn and binding nature of the relationship into which you are now about to enter.

Marriage, according to the law in Australia, is the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.

Second Reading (optional)

If you wish, choose a second reading or poem to be read here.

Vows

First the Groom, and then the Bride, repeat the vows after the Celebrant:

In front of our witnesses here present, I [Groom/Bride's name] take you [Bride/Groom's name] to be my lawful wedded husband/wife.

I promise to love you, to care for you and to respect you for as long as we both shall live/for all of my life.

Ring Ceremony (optional)

Celebrant:

[Groom's name] and [Bride's name] have chosen to exchange rings as an outward symbol of their commitment to each other.

The band of the wedding ring represents everlasting love, the ring a never-ending circle with no beginning and no end.

First the Groom, and then the Bride, repeat after the Celebrant:

[Bride/Groom's name], accept this ring as a symbol of my love and of all we share.

Or

[Bride/Groom's name], take this ring and wear it with my love.

Conclusion of Ceremony

Celebrant:

Ladies and gentlemen, (and children)/Family and friends, [Groom's name] and [Bride's name] have declared before all of us that they now wish to live and love together in marriage.

Let us hope this day will form a milestone in your lives, one that you will look back upon with much joy and happiness.

It therefore gives me great pleasure to pronounce you husband and wife.

Congratulations, you may now both kiss, if you wish.

Signing of Marriage Certificates

Bride and Groom sign first, then Witnesses and then celebrant.

Presentation of Marriage Certificate

Celebrant:

Ladies and gentlemen, family and friends, on behalf of the Victorian Marriage Registry and the Bride and Groom, thank you all for coming here today to celebrate with [Groom's name] and [Bride's name] on their Wedding Day and for making their day so special.

Congratulations again to [Groom's name] and [Bride's name].