



Wedding Ceremony Planning & Officiating

We are all a little weird and life's a little weird, and when we find someone whose weirdness is compatible with ours, we join up with them and fall in mutual weirdness and call it love.

BrendaCalabria@gmail.com
315-719-4096
www.BlueKryptonite.org
78 South Morrell Ave
Geneva, NY 14456

Many couples have used this as a **typical order of events** for a wedding ceremony. Since it is **your wedding**, you should *feel free to add, delete, or alter the sequence of these events*. When I meet with you to plan your wedding, we will discuss many of the options available to you. This will make your ceremony customized personal and uniquely yours.

- Guests are seated
- Grandparents are seated
 - Parents of the Bride and Groom are seated – if using a unity candle – parents should light each single candle here
- Officiant/Minister, Groom and Best Man enter and proceed to the front
- Processional music
- Ceremony
- Recessional music begins
- Bride and Groom exit
- Bridal party exits
- Minister's instructions to the audience.
- Signing of the marriage license
- Pictures!
- Party!

A final copy of your ceremony will be provided to you on parchment after the ceremony.

OPTIONS,

In each of the following sections, you will find several options of what may be said.

- 1st – read through and cross out what immediately feels incorrect to you or just doesn't feel like you.
- 2nd – read through again – rearranging, deleting, changing words as you need. It can be as long or as short as you want.
- 3rd – feel free to add readings, poems or even songs where you would like.

We will work through and go back and forth until this is perfect! I am happy to sit and work on this with you.

I- Opening Remarks

- 1) Welcome friends and family! Today is truly a gift!
- 2) from this place, we take ourselves out of the usual routines of daily living to witness a unique moment in lives of _____ & _____.
- 3) Friends and families! 1. _____ and 2. _____ are here today to happily proclaim their intention to marry. In so doing, they are allowing us to participate in the celebration of a love which they have nurtured for some time. Theirs is a partnership freely chosen and founded on friendship, trust and respect. A partnership that encourages not only open communication, self-expression and the sharing of knowledge, but also an enthusiasm for life. It is based on the belief that each is equally important and that any pretense of superiority by either would be injurious to both.
- 4) Welcome friends and family as we witness two souls, two hearts become intertwined as one. _____ & _____ are adventurers on a journey. Led by hope and faith. Bound by trust and committed to truth forever wrapped in grace. Rooted in God and honoured in heaven.
- 5) We are gathered here to join this man and this woman - this couple - in marriage. This is an act as ancient as the history of the human race and as new as each morning, for it speaks of the past and of the future, of life of the individual and the existence of the community.
- 6) Because marriage is concerned with the most fundamental of human relationships, it must not be regarded lightly. Those who enter into this relationship shall cherish for each other a mutual esteem and love, bear each other's' infirmities and weaknesses, comfort each other in sickness, trouble and sorrow, encourage each other in trials of the spirit, and live together as the heirs of life.
- 7) _____ and _____ are here today, with their family and friends, to declare publicly their love for one another, and to be joined in marriage. This is much more than a social and civil occasion, because it is the declaration of their hearts, built upon experience, and enriched by their love. With love it is possible to live a life together, each seeking and encouraging the joy, the comfort, the health, and the enrichment of the other, all of which will divide sorrow and multiply satisfactions.
- 8) Friends, _____ and _____ have invited us here today to share in the celebration of their marriage. We come together not to mark the start of a relationship, but to recognize a bond that already exists. This marriage is one expression of many varieties of love. Love is one, though its expressions are infinite.
- 9) We live in a world of joy and fear and search for meaning and strength in the seeming disorder. We discover the truest guideline to our quest when we realize love in all its magnitudes. Love is the eternal force of life. Love is the force that allows us to face fear and uncertainty with courage.
- 10) Dearly Beloved, we are gathered here today in the presence of these witnesses, to join _____ and _____ in matrimony, which is commended to be honourable among all men; and therefore – is not by any – to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly –

but reverently, discreetly, advisedly and solemnly. Into this holy estate these two persons present now come to be joined. If any person can show just cause why they may not be joined together – let them speak now or forever hold their peace.

11) Friends, we have been invited here today to share with _____ and _____ a very important moment in their lives. In the years they have been together, their love and understanding of each other has grown and matured, and now they have decided to live their lives together as husband and wife.

12) Dear Friends, we are gathered here today to witness the marriage of _____ & _____. Having come to love each other deeply and sincerely, they now wish to unite their lives. In this ceremony they dedicate themselves to the happiness and well-being of each other, and we their friends and family join with them in this celebration and dedication.

13) Marriage is a spiritual art form. In marriage, two unique people surrender to the Greatest Love and commit to the process of co-creating an environment that will elicit their highest potential as human beings. Through their marriage, _____ & _____ will become more of who they truly are. From joys and sorrows shared, they will grow in love and loyalty. From any pain given and forgiven, they will grow in mutual understanding and compassion. Their life together will move toward the fulfilment of what we celebrate here today.

14) Let us pray.

God, we ask for your blessings upon this man and woman,
as we celebrate this momentous occasion in their lives.

Grant them happiness and contentment

as they establish their new home,

create a new family and

explore the depths of their love for one another and for you.

Bless their families and friends and the relationships,

which have supported, strengthened and sustained
them throughout their lives.

Bless their home as a place of love and of peace.

And if times grow hard and tempers grow short,

help them to look into their hearts and

remember the love that brought them here today

Amen

15) Join with me and let us pray as our Father has taught us

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name,

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done

On Earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day,

Our daily bread.

Forgive our trespasses

As we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

- 16) Marriage is the clasping of hands, the blending of two hearts, the union of two lives into one. Your marriage must stand, not by the authority of the state, nor by the seal on your wedding certificate, but by the strength and power of the faith and love you have in one another.

II – Charge to the Couple

- 17) 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 the earth.
- An Apache Wedding Blessing
- 18) Because the family/couple is the foundation of human fellowship, marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly, but with devotion and discretion. Love and loyalty will avail as the foundation of a happy and enduring home, and if the solemn vows you are about to make are kept with honor and integrity, your life will be full of peace and joy, and the home you are establishing will be one of warmth and understanding.
- 19) I charge you both, as you stand in the presence of God, friends and family, to remember that love and loyalty alone will avail as the foundations of a happy and enduring home. If the solemn vows which you are about to make be kept permanently, and if steadfastly you seek to do the will of your Heavenly Father, your life will be full of peace and joy, and the home which you are establishing will abide through every change.
- 20) _____ and _____, you are giving yourselves to each other in unselfish love. You will make a solemn vow to each other, a deliberate promise that come what may, for better or for worse, in sickness and in health you will be true and faithful to each other.
- 21) This means thoughtfulness and patience, ready sympathy and forbearance, talking over and sharing your special interests. Thus you will learn to bear each other's burdens, making your life journey together one of radiant joy and hope.
- 22) This service is far more than the exchange of solemn vows. It is one of blessing. If is only with God's help that you can steadfastly keep the promises you will here make to each other. The ever living Christ is here to bless and guide you. He will always be by your side to help you. The nearer you keep to God, the closer and dearer you will be to each other.

- 23) In the presence of God, friends and family, I charge you, _____ and _____, to cherish a mutual esteem and love; to bear with each other's infirmities and weaknesses; to comfort each other in sickness, trouble, and sorrow, in honesty and industry to provide for each other; to pray for and encourage each other in the things which pertain to God; and to live together as heirs of the grace of God.
- 24) But you can not do this alone. Trust in God, pray to him daily, give your talents to the church, find your place in its fellowship, and accept its ministries to inspire, to instruct, and to keep alive the love of God in your hearts which has brought you together and which sustains you.
- 25) God is joining you together. He will seal you covenant with His. Thus you will be the instruments of his will and purpose for yourselves and for others. Your love is not your own; it is God's love implanted within you to which you in freedom have joyously responded. Now he will create out of your love something which did not exist before - a holy marriage. Marriage is more than your love for each other; it is God's holy ordinance; it is his act before it is yours. By the will of God you belong to each other until death will part you
- 26) _____ and _____, the covenant which you are about to make with each other is meant to be a beautiful and sacred expression of your love for each other. As you pledge your vows to each other, and as you commit your lives to each other, we ask that you do so in all seriousness, and yet with a deep sense of joy; with the deep conviction that you are committing yourselves to a dynamic growing relationship of trust, mutual support, and caring love.
- 27) Of all the men and women you have met, you have chosen each other as partners in life. To grow together in love, you will need to commit yourselves to each other freely and gladly.
- 28) If you know of nothing, legal or moral, to forbid your vows, and wish now to commit yourselves to each other, indicate that by joining right hands. I call on you both, now in the presence of God and your friends and families, to give expression to the commitment you have made to each other.
- 29) _____ and _____, we want to remind you of the seriousness of the commitment you are about to make to each other. To pledge your life to another person in a lifelong relationship is an awesome, and yet beautiful, act. We want to hear from you your readiness to pledge your vows to each other, and so we ask...
- 30) I charge you both, as you stand here in this high moment of your lives, to remember that love and loyalty alone will stand as the foundations of a happy and enduring home. If the vows you make this day are kept, your life together will be full of joy and peace, and the home which you make shall abide through every unknown future.
- 31) In this new life together, I counsel you to recall ever anew the thrill of your early love. Cherish always the visions and hopes you have this day, and let them not be tarnished by common events or routine habit. Believe in your ideals for this marriage, and diligently pursue them, and they shall indeed become realities.

- 32) I charge you both to make your love for each other a growing part of your lives, feeding it from the very best resources of your living. You must grow to the point where each gains major satisfaction in giving happiness to the other. Give of yourself to the other, deeply and freely and generously, ever recalling the words of the poet who has said:
- 33) Love ever gives, forgives, outlives:
And ever stands with open hands.
And while it lives. It gives.
For this is love's prerogative:
To give--and give--and give.
- 34) Yes, it is also necessary to recognize that marriage is a relationship of two persons who are not always at their best, and even in these moments of human failing, I counsel you always to act with charity and compassion toward one another, sharing the spirit expressed in the Book of Ephesians: "Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another." I would further charge you to understand, and constantly to strengthen, the spiritual basis of your love, recognizing that it is the most precious of all God's gifts to you, and that it must be nurtured until it attains to the state of perfect love which is intended by God for all people. Keep ever before you the words of the New Testament: "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God. If we love one another, God dwells in us, and in us shall his love be perfected." Keep your hearts and minds open to the inner working of his spirit, that you love for each other may become as his love for us, full and complete in every way.
- 35) And finally, I do charge and require you both to remember this day as the most sacred day in your lives--as the day in which you promised, before God and man, that in every way possible you would strive to bring each other life's greatest fulfilment.
- 36) Hand in Hand you enter marriage, hand in hand you step out in faith. The hand you freely give to each other, is both the strongest and the most tender part of you body. In the years ahead you will need both strength and tenderness. Be firm in your commitment. Don't let your grip become weak. And yet, be flexible as you go through change. Don't let your hold become intolerable. Strength and tenderness...Firm commitment and flexibility....of such is a marriage made, hand in hand: Remember this well!
- 37) Also remember that you don't walk this path alone. Don't be afraid to reach out to others when together you face difficulty. Other hands are there: friends, family, and the church. To accept an outreached hand is not an admission of failure, but an act of faith. For behind us, underneath us, around us all, are the outstretched arms of the One from Galilee. It is into his hand, the hands of God in Jesus Christ, that, above all else, we commit this union of husband and wife. Hand in hand (couple, church, God) you enter marriage. Let us step out in faith. Amen.

Are you thinking about writing your own? Consider these things:

1 - MEANINGFUL PROMISES

First, vows are meant to be vows. They are the promises you are making to one another and the rules that will guide your marriage no matter where life takes you. Make sure you touch upon the love, support and respect you will always have for the other and the dedication you will have to your marriage.

2 - MAKE IT PERSONAL

Second, if you are taking the time to write your own vows, make them personal! For example,

- ♥ What is the single greatest thing about the person you are going to marry?
- ♥ When did you know that you were in love/know that this person was the one you wanted to marry?
- ♥ What does marriage mean to you? Why do you want to be a married person?
- ♥ What is the most important thing you want to promise to your partner? What is the promise you most want to hear from them?
- ♥ What will change about your relationship once you are married? What will stay the same?
- ♥ What is your most favorite memory of your partner?
- ♥ When you were little, did you dream of your wedding day or your future spouse? How does that vision match up (or not) with your sweetheart?

3 - MAKE THEM TIMELESS

Third, keep in mind that you will be thinking back on these words thirty years down the road. Although you want them to be personal and maybe even a bit playful, you might look back and regret if all you spoke about was your promise to support their favorite football team and share the remote.

- 38) I, Groom/Bride take thee, Groom/Bride to be my wedded wife/husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I pledge thee my faith
- 39) In the name of God, and in the presence of our families and friends, I, Groom/Bride, choose you, Groom/Bride, to be my beloved wife/husband. I promise to love you and hold you close, and to be a comfort and a safe haven for you in your life. I promise to nourish you with my gentleness and caring and to uphold you with my strength. I will listen to you with an open mind and heart and will weigh the effects of the words I speak and the things I do. Groom/Bride, I will forever thank God for your presence in my life and you will always be surrounded by my love.
- 40) I (Groom/Bride), call upon these persons here present to witness that I (Groom/Bride), do take you (Groom/Bride), to be my lawful wedded (wife/husband), to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, to

love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy law; and to this I pledge myself.

- 41) I, Bride/Groom, take you, Bride/Groom, to be my wife/husband, knowing in my heart that you will be my constant friend, my faithful partner, and one true love. You are my best friend and I will love and respect you always.
- 42) Today, Bride/Groom, I join my life to yours, not merely as your (husband/wife), but as your friend, your lover, and your confidant. Let me be the shoulder you lean on, the rock on which you rest, the companion of your life. With you I will walk my path from this day forward.
- 43) I, _____, choose you, _____,
in the presence of our friends and families,
to be my wife/husband and partner
from this time 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 nourish you with my gentleness,
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.

IV- Ring Exchange

Optional Ring Warming – prior to the rings being exchanged
The Ring Warming is an Irish tradition.

- 44) Before ____ and ____ exchange rings, they have asked that the people before them participate in the *warming of the rings*. If you are unfamiliar with this, please take the opportunity to wish them health, happiness, and all that is noble and good in life when the rings pass to your care. Hold them for but a moment and warm them with your love, making a silent wish for the future that this couple will share.

When returned, these rings will contain in their precious metals that which is all the more precious—your love and pledge of support for their union.

- 45) The Groom places the ring on the Bride's finger and says: Bride, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you, in the name of God. The Bride places the ring on the Groom's finger and says: Groom, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you, in the name of God.
- 46) Groom, please repeat after me: In token and pledge of our constant faith and abiding love, with this ring I thee wed, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen. (places ring on her finger) Bride, please repeat after me: In token and pledge of our constant faith and abiding love, with this ring I thee wed, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (places ring on his finger)

- 47) The wedding ring is a traditional symbol of lasting commitment and enduring love, a universal expression of that which is without beginning and without end. These rings express two other ideals – the ring itself, appealing to hand and eye, and the center, less tangible, and yet it has essence. The ring symbolizes the unbroken circle of your love and at its center lies love itself. And it is this love on which your marriage puts its faith, and from which it draws its sustenance and inspiration.
- 48) A Bride and Groom's rings are an external and visible sign of the internal and spiritual bond of love which unites their two hearts. May they serve as a seal of the vows Bride and Groom have made to one another. Bless these rings, symbols of eternity, beauty and strength. Bless the couple who give them and wear them—may they ever live in harmony, unity, love, and happiness from this day forward.
- 49) GROOM and BRIDE you have just sealed your relationship by the giving and receiving of rings and this is a pledge between two people who agree that they will commit themselves to one another throughout their lives.

OPTIONAL – sand ceremony

- 50) These two separate vases of sand symbolize your separate lives before you found each other. They symbolize your separate friends, family, and choices. Today, both of you will seal your bond by blending these two individual vases together. Once the sand is blended together, it cannot be separated.
- 51) BRIDE and GROOM, today you join your separate lives together. The two separate bottles of sand symbolize your separate lives, separate families and separate sets of friends. They represent all that you are and all that you will ever be as an individual. They also represent your lives before today.
- 52) As these two containers of sand are poured into the third container, the individual containers of sand will no longer exist, but will be joined together as one. Just as these grains of sand can never be separated and poured again into the individual containers, so will your marriage be.

VI – Closing Remarks

- 53) The vows you have just taken, pledging love,
mean far more than mere words ever can.
May their gentle spirit move in you.
May your years fulfill the beauty
of the feelings expressed today.
And may you always put these vows
above the things that make life smaller.

54) As you continue on your journey together, I ask you to remember this advice:
Let your love be stronger than your anger.
Learn the wisdom of compromise, for it is better to bend than to break.
Believe the best of your beloved rather than the worst.
Confide in your partner and ask for help when you need it.
Remember that true friendship is the basis for any lasting relationship.
Give your spouse the same courtesies and kindnesses you bestow on your friends.
Say "I love you" every day.

55) May you have many joys,
and be the light of each other's days.
May all that you are, always be in love;
And may all that is love, always be in you.
May you always see and encourage the best in each other.
May the challenges that life brings your way
make your marriage grow stronger.
May you always be each other's best friend
and greatest love.

56) Today is the public affirmation and acknowledgment of all that you are to each other.
Seemingly your relationship will be as it has always been, yet there is a power in the spoken
word. May that power bring you all the warmth and closeness, security and comfort, joy
and happiness that this world has to offer."

57) Now you will feel no rain, An Apache Wedding Blessing
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 the earth.

58) The Lord bless and keep you. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

V- Pronouncement of Marriage

59) For as much as Groom and Bride have consented together and have witnessed the same
before this company, I pronounce that they are Husband and Wife.

60) You have consented together, have pledged your vows to each other, and have exchanged
rings as tokens of your love and commitment to each other. In accordance with the laws of
man and God, it is with great joy, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

- 61) Forasmuch as Groom and Bride have consented together, have pledged their faith each to the other, and have declared the same by joining hands and by giving and receiving rings; I pronounce that they are together and husband and wife.
- 62) Because Groom and Bride have desired each other in marriage, and have witnessed this before God and our gathering, affirming their acceptance of the responsibilities of such a union, and have pledged their love and faith to each other, sealing their vows in the giving and receiving of rings, I do proclaim that they are husband and wife. Let all people here and everywhere recognize and respect this union, now and forever.

VII- The Kiss

- 63) Although you may have kissed a thousand times before, today will be different. Today, you kiss your spouse for the first time. You may now kiss your bride.
- 64) You may now kiss your bride

Presentation of the Bride and Groom

Family & friends
OR Ladies and gentlemen, I now present to you,

Mr. & Mrs. _____

QUOTES THAT COULD FIT ANYWHERE

- 65) True love stands by each other's side on good days and stands closer on bad days.
- 66) A perfect marriage is just two imperfect people who refuse to give up on each other.
- 67) Marriage – the roots are deep, the covenant is solid, love is sweet, life is hard, and God is good
- 68) Love, laughter, and happily ever after.
- 69) Never marry the one you can live with, marry the one you cannot live without
- 70) Marriage lets you annoy one special person for the rest of your life.
- 71) It's amazing how one day someone walks into your life, and you cannot remember how you ever lived without them.
- 72) To love is nothing. To be loved is something. But to be loved by the person you love is everything.
- 73) Marriage is a gift from God to us. The quality of our marriage is our gift to Him.
- 74) If you live to be a hundred, I wish to live a hundred minus one, so I never have to live without you.
- 75) The only thing better than having you as my husband is our children having you as their daddy.
- 76) Best friends for life, husband and wife.
- 77) Marriage cannot thrive on leftover attention. It has to get the best effort!

- 78) Always strive to give your spouse the very best of yourself; not what's leftover after you have given your best to everyone.
- 79) When you realize you want to spend the rest of your life with somebody, you want the rest of your life to begin as soon as possible.
- 80) Marriage does not guarantee you will be together forever, it's only paper. It takes love, respect, trust, understanding, friendship, and faith in your relationship to make it last.
- 81) You cannot make your marriage all good by yourself! But you can make it better all by yourself.
- 82) Marriage is not 50-50, divorce is 50-50. Marriage is 100-100 – it isn't dividing everything in half but giving everything that you have got.
- 83) I vow to always love you, even during the football season!
- 84) The most successful marriages are those where both husband and wife seek to build the self-esteem of the other.
- 85) A great marriage doesn't happen when the "perfect couple" gets together. It happens when an imperfect couple gets together and learns to enjoy each other's differences.
- 86) A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, with the same person.
- 87) A happy marriage is the union of two forgivers.
- 88) The greatest marriages are built on teamwork, mutual respect, a healthy dose of admiration, and a never-ending portion of love and grace.
- 89) Make your marriage your own. Don't look at other marriages and wish you had something else. Work to shape your marriage so that it is satisfying for both of you.

PLANNING SHEET

I. Opening Remarks _____

II. Charge to the Couple _____

III. Vows _____

IV. Ring Exchange _____

V. Closing Remarks _____

VI. Pronouncement of Marriage _____

VII. The Kiss _____

_____, I now present to you,

Mr. & Mrs. _____