



Non Religious Wedding Ceremony

Processional

[Groom and best men standing at the front with me, while the bride, proceeded by her bridesmaids and maid of honor, walk to join us]

Opening Remarks

“We are here today to celebrate the marriage of _____ and _____ .

(If the bride is escorted forward)

Before we begin, I would like to ask, who is here to give this woman away?”

(The father, children, relative etc. may give the bride away. He /they answer "I do", "I do on behalf of her family and friends" etc. , This person then steps back and the groom takes the bride's hand.)

“Thank you _____ . You may all be seated.”

[The bridal party remains standing]

“Even in our day and time, getting married is one of the most important relationships you can have. We are born into our families. You don’t choose them, however significant their impact in our lives can be. Yet the person you give your heart to becomes the most important person you will ever know. They are also a reflection of what you consider beautiful and meaningful in this world.

Look into the eyes of your partner. No one else will shape you like this person. And although sustaining a marriage requires great intentionality and care, this person – if you allow them- will help you become the best you can be. When two people share this mutual commitment to each other - this is the human heart at its best.

Declaration of consent

“_____ (groom), will you have this woman to be your wedded wife, to live together in the estate of matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health, and, forsaking all others, keep yourself only for her so long as you both shall live?”

Groom responds: “I Will”

“And, _____ (bride), will you have this man to be your wedded husband, to live together in the estate of matrimony? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep

him, in sickness and in health, and, forsaking all others, keep yourself only for him so long as you both shall live?"

Bride responds: "I Will"

Exchange of vows

You may change the vows as you wish or write your own vows

"_____ (groom), at this time, you can now express your vows to _____ (bride). Please repeat after me:

_____, I take you to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse; for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health; in joy and in sorrow; to love and to cherish and to be faithful to you alone, as long as we both shall live."

"And now _____ (bride), please repeat after me:

_____, I take you to be my husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse; for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health; in joy and in sorrow; to love and to cherish and to be faithful to you alone, as long as we both shall live."

Ring exchange

For as long as people have been getting married, they have looked for symbols to portray what they have expressed *on their wedding day* in word, and *every day that followed*, in tangible deeds of love.

The ring has no beginning and no end. And it is our hope that your relationship will also be a continual expression of love and faithfulness- never ending, always true...

[The groom is asked to place the ring on the finger of his bride]

"_____ (groom), please repeat after me:

GROOM

With this ring, I give you my promise:
that from this day forward, you shall not walk alone.

May my heart be your shelter, and my arms your home.
May we walk together through all things.

With this ring, I give you my heart.
I have no greater gift to give.

[The bride is asked to place the ring on the finger of her husband]

“ _____ (bride), please repeat after me:

BRIDE

With this ring, I give you my promise:
that from this day forward, you shall not walk alone.

May my heart be your shelter, and my arms your home.
May we walk together through all things.

With this ring, I give you my heart.
I have no greater gift to give.

(If there are children of either couple, sometimes couples will give a ring or small gift such as a necklace or ring to the child and say a short statement that they also are now part of the new family. I believe it very important to mention children's names in the ceremony, If you have minor children coming into the marriage, please provide their names so I will mention them as is appropriate.)

Readings/Musical selection/Unity Candle/Sand Ceremony (optional)

Declaration of marriage

“In as much as you _____ (groom), and you _____ (bride), have openly pledged yourselves to one another in love and faithfulness, before these witnesses, and having confirmed the same in the giving and receiving of rings, and most importantly, by the authority of your love for one another...

It is my privilege, by the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, to pronounce you husband and wife.

_____ (groom), you may kiss your bride!”

“Ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to introduce to you,
Mr. & Mrs. _____.”

Signing of the Register

[Signing of all government forms]

Recessional