

Direct Officiants

Wedding Ceremonies



CEREMONY PLANNER

&

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PRESENTATION OF THE BRIDE

Please select one of the following options for the Presentation of the Bride section of your wedding ceremony.

Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

Who escorts this woman to begin her newlife with this man?

Bride is accompanied by her father, _____ . Do you give your blessing on this marriage and do you pledge your support to help *Sage & Carlee* in their journey as husband and wife?

Omit this section

Additional Notes

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OPENING WORDS

Please select one of the following options for the Opening Words section of your wedding ceremony.

Dearly beloved, we are gathered together in the sight of God, to unite this man and this woman in holy matrimony; which is an honorable estate instituted of God (signifying unto us the mystical union that exists between Christ and his followers). It is therefore not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly; but reverently, discreetly, and in the fear of God. Into this holy estate, these two persons come now to be united.

Two words come to mind that symbolize this sacred moment. They are Journey and Commitment. This moment we share in is a celebration of a mutual commitment to a journey of togetherness. Groom and Bride have been on a journey in their relationship. This wedding, however, is not the end of the trip but a junction at which their relationship will take a new direction. We never really know where paths may lead, but if we keep open to new opportunities, we can find some wonderful surprises. Groom & Bride thank you for being here to share in this sacred moment as they celebrate their love for each other and continue their journey together. Each of you has given something of yourself to Groom and Bride to help them become the people they are. Therefore it is fitting that you share with them in this moment as their two paths become one. This ceremony is a celebration of their commitment to a journey that will last a lifetime.

My Friends, we have gathered today in the midst of spring, a time for new beginnings in relationships, as well as in nature. Yet while the first flowers of spring are gorgeous to behold, compellingly sweet to the senses, we know that it takes several seasons, much tender care and the weathering of many storms for the fruit of those perennial flowers to grow and ripen. Similarly, it takes time for love to mature and reach its rightful completion. This spring wedding ought to remind us that, like the seasons, human life - the life of the spirit and the emotions - moves in cycles. To be in a loving relationship does not guarantee an eternal

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and honest commitment does not promise an end to all struggle. What a good relationship does offer is opportunity for renewal. It recognizes the abiding, shared hope that after every winter, spring will come again. In marriage we make a commitment to weather patiently the cold and bitter times, to protect and tend that original love-seed until it bursts into bloom again. We are here to celebrate beginnings, and to acknowledge that love, as anything else we would treasure for long, requires sustaining care and continual nurturing.

Dearly Beloved, we are gathered here today in the sight of God to witness the marriage of Groom & Bride and to celebrate the moment when a man and a woman join together in the bonds of love, honor, respect and responsibility -- into the unity that is marriage. Groom & Bride, this is your day, your time, your celebration. Today you declare the love and commitment you have expressed to each other many times before. Today, each of you declares for the whole world to see, that this other person has that special primary place in your life that can only be given to one other. Your families, who have given you life and sustenance, are here with you. Your friends are here, standing with you. Through all these people, you have become the two you are. All of them support you as you join your lives together into one. For you, the families of Groom & Bride, this is a special day in your lives as well. You have gathered to celebrate this joyous occasion with your children. Those who look to you for love have become sources of new love. Groom & Bride are accepting the responsibility of this marriage for themselves, to build together a life and tradition; as you, their families have prepared them. The rest of you are special friends of Groom & Bride, and you have become even more special by being here to share in this celebration. You have been as family with whom they have shared the good times and the bad times. The qualities of your friendship have enriched the quality of their lives. Now you will witness and confirm the uniqueness of their friendship and love for each other.

Omit this section

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STATEMENT OF INTENT

Please select one of the following options for the Statement of Intent section of your wedding ceremony.

Groom/Bride do you take Bride/Groom to be your lawfully wedded wife/husband? Do you promise to love her/him, honor her/him, cherish her/him in sickness and in health and forsake all other so long as you both shall live? ***“I DO”***

Groom/Bride will you take Bride/Groom to be your lawfully wedded wife/husband? Will you love her/him, honor her/him, cherish her/him in sickness and in health and forsake all other so long as you both shall live? ***“I WILL”***

Groom/Bride, do you come before this gathering of friends and family to proclaim your love and devotion for Bride/Groom? Do you promise to affirm her/him, respect her/him, and care for her/him during times of joy and hardship? Do you commit yourself to share your feelings of happiness and sadness? Do you pledge to remain faithful to her/him? ***“I DO”***

Omit this section

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SPECIAL READING

Please select one of the following options for the Special Reading section of your wedding ceremony.

Groom and Bride, as the two of you come into this marriage uniting you as husband and wife, and as you this day affirm your faith and love for one another, I would ask that you always remember to cherish each other as special and unique individuals, that you respect the thoughts, ideas and suggestions of one another. Be able to forgive without holding grudges, and live each day that you may share it together – as from this day forward you shall be each other's home, comfort and refuge, your marriage strengthened by your love and respect for each other. Just as two threads woven in opposite directions will form a most beautiful tapestry, so too can your two lives merged together make a beautiful marriage. To make your relationship work will take love. This is the core of your marriage and why you are here today. It will take trust, to know in your hearts that you truly want the best for each other. It will take dedication, to stay open to one another – and to learn and grow together. It will take faith, to go forward together without knowing exactly what the future brings. And it will take commitment, to hold true to the journey you both embark upon together today.

Read 1st Corinthians 13 from the Bible

Love never gives up. Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast and it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered and it doesn't keep a record of wrongs. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perceivers. There are three pillars on which to build a relationship, Faith (in something greater than ourselves), Hope (that the brightest days are yet to come) and Love (that know no bounds). Of these three the greatest and most important is Love.

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There is an art to marriage as there is to any creative activity human beings engage in. This art asks that we pay attention to the little things as well as the big ones that create the closeness of marriage. Never grow too old to hold hands. At least once each day, remember to say, "I love you." In so much as it is possible, develop the capacity to forgive and forget and heal quarrels as they happen so that you do not go to bed angry. Your courtship should not end with the honeymoon; so pay attention that you do not come to take each other for granted, and remember to speak words of appreciation and demonstrate your gratitude in thoughtful ways. It is important to have a mutual sense of values and common objectives so that you stand together as you work through the world and do things for each other, not as a duty or sacrifice, but in the spirit of joy. Do not expect perfection of each other; for only God is perfect. But do give each other room to grow and cultivate flexibility, patience, understanding, and a sense of humor in your relationship. And a marriage is not just for two people. Use it to form a circle of love that gathers in your families and the children who may become part of your lives. Find room for the things of the spirit and make your search for the good and beautiful a common search. In the words of a wise counselor, make yours a relationship in which "the independence is equal, the dependence is mutual and the obligation is reciprocal." Remember that standing together does not mean dissolving your individual selves completely into each other, but indeed means the strengthening of your own individuality. A good marriage evolves when two distinct souls face life's joy and its sorrow in harmony, not necessarily in unison. This list sounds very long and very heavy, yet it is only a small part of what is required of two people who would truly accept that making a marriage last a lifetime is an artistic endeavor worthy of our very best efforts. It is not just another relationship in our lives; it is the one that gives us courage and the support to reach out to other people in love and wholeness. It is not only marrying the right partner it is being the right partner.

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You have known each other from the first glance of acquaintance to this point of commitment. At some point, you decided to marry. From that moment of yes to this moment of yes, indeed, you have been making promises and agreements in an informal way. All those conversations that were held riding in a car or over a meal or relaxing together – all those sentences that began with “When we’re married” and continued with “I will” and “you will” and “we will” — those late night talks that included “someday” and “somehow” and “maybe” — and all those promises that are unspoken matters of the heart. All these common things, and more, are the real process of a wedding. 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.” Look at one another and remember this moment in time. Before this moment you have been many things to one another — acquaintance, friend, companion, advisor, and even teacher, for you have learned much from one another in the last couple years. Now you shall say a few words that take you across a threshold of life, 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.

Omit this section

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VOWS

*Please select one of the following options for the Vows section of your wedding ceremony.
These will be read in a "Repeat after me" manner, a few words at a time.*

I, Groom/Bride, take you, Bride/Groom, to be my wife/husband to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do we part.

I, Groom/Bride, take you, Bride/Groom, to be my wife/husband. In doing so I commit my life to you. A life that encompasses all sorrows and joys, all hardships and triumphs, all the experiences of my life. My commitment is . . . made in love, kept in faith, lived in hope, and eternally made new.

Groom/Bride, look into Bride's/Groom's eyes, and into her/his heart, and repeat after me.

I commit my life to our partnership in marriage. I promise to comfort you, to encourage you in all walks of life. I promise to express my thoughts - and emotions to you, and to listen to you in times of joy - and in times of sorrow. Bride/Groom I love you, - and you are my closest friend.

Bride/Groom, 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 hold you in highest regard. These things I give to you today, and all the days of our life.

I, Groom/Bride affirm my love to you, Bride/Groom as I invite you to share my life. You are the most beautiful, smart, and generous person I have ever known, and I promise always to respect you. With kindness, unselfishness and trust, I will work by your side to create a wonderful life together. I take you (Bride/Groom) to be my lawful wife/husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health for as long as we both shall live.

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EXCHANGING RINGS

*Please select one of the following options for the Ring Exchange section of your wedding ceremony.
These will be read in a "Repeat after me" manner, a few words at a time.*

Groom and Bride have chosen to exchange rings as symbols of their love for each other. The precious and valued gold in the rings will serve to remind them of how precious and valued their love is for each other. The circle represents a commitment and level of love that knows no end.

In token and in pledge of the vow between us made, with this ring I thee wed.

Groom and Bride have chosen to exchange rings as symbols of their eternal love for each other. These rings are the symbols of the vows taken here. Circles of wholeness; perfect in form. These rings mark the beginning of a long journey together filled with wonder, surprises, laughter, tears, celebration, a little bit of grief, and a lot of joy. May these rings glow in the reflection of the warmth of the lives, which flow through the wearers today.

I give you this ring as a sign of my love knowing that love is precious and fragile, yet strong. I give you this ring as I give you my love.

You have chosen these rings as the symbol of your marriage covenant. They are made of gold, a metal that does not tarnish and is enduring. These rings represent the ties that bind you together as husband and wife. They are an endless circle representing your marriage union, which shall stand forever.

In token and pledge of our constant faith and abiding love, with this ring I marry you.

Omit this section

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UNITY CEREMONY

Please select one of the following options for the Unity Ceremony section of your wedding ceremony.

Candle

Groom and Bride have chosen to use candles as a symbol for their unity. The two candles on each side of the Unity Candle were lit by Groom's and Bride's mothers. The lighting of the taper candles symbolizes beginning of life. Each flicker of the flames represents the people, places, experiences and emotions that have shaped them into unique individuals. As Groom and Bride light their unity candle they celebrate beginning of their two lives being merged together into one. To burn forever brightly and warmly.

Sand

Groom and Bride have chosen to use sand as a symbol for their unity. As they stand here before you they each hold an individual vessel of sand. As a whole these vessels symbolize each of their lives up to today. Each single grain of sand represents the people, places, experiences and emotions that have shaped them into unique individuals. By pouring the two vessels into one, both Groom and Bride celebrate the beginning of their two lives together into one. This not only represents the joining of their lives, but all of the amazing people that have influenced them along the way. Forever blended and even more beautiful.

Wine

For years, the drinking of wine has been customary as a way in which to celebrate special occasions. Today Bride and Groom will, in a Unity Wine Ceremony, create a rose wine, to share during their dinner this evening. Bride and Groom in this ceremony, the red wine represents the deep richness of the love in your hearts and the robust energy which keeps your loving relationship going. The white wine, fermented in oak barrels, represents the strength of a loving marriage and a lingering taste in your soul for the love you feel for each other. Combining the two,

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INCLUSION OF CHILDREN

Please select one of the following options for the Inclusion of Children section of your wedding ceremony.

This marriage is more than just two adults committing their lives to each other. Their circle of love includes Bride's/Groom's daughter/son _____. Groom and Bride have a gift that they would like to present to _____ as a token to remind him/her/that he/she/they is/are loved and accepted by both Groom and Bride. It will also serve as a reminder of Groom and Bride's commitment to love and care for _____ as wise parents to help him/her/they attain the rich rewards of a happy, healthy, and mature life.

When there are children involved, it is essential to a happy home that there be love and understanding between the children and both parents. Groom and Bride, is your love for each other broad enough and deep enough to include _____, and do you pledge to love, care for and assist _____ as wise parents, helping to attain the rich rewards of a happy, mature life? Groom and Bride say: **"I DO"**

_____, you have heard your _____ pledge themselves one to the other and to you. Do you solemnly pledge to do your best to help your to maintain a happy and successful home for all of you, by giving them your loving cooperation?

Bride and Groom, the rings you have given to one another are symbols of your commitment to one another, but they are also more. For today you are also making a commitment to _____. Today you are pledging your love to them as well, committing to them that you will create a family together. Let the perfect circle of the wedding ring embrace _____, as well as the two of you.

Omit this section

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PRONOUNCEMENT/BLESSING

Please select one of the following options for the Pronouncement/Blessing section of your wedding ceremony.

For as much as this man and this woman have consented together in Holy wedlock and have witnessed the same before God and these witnesses and have declared the same by the joining of hands, I now pronounce by the power vested in me by this state that they are husband and wife. Those whom God has joined together let no one tear apart.

Groom and Bride, you have now affirmed before you families and friends your love and devotion for each other. You have come from different backgrounds. You have walked different paths. You are different individuals. Yet, your love has transcended these differences. In the years before you may the richness of the traditions that have nurtured you enhance and brighten your lives as you create and shape your family's future. May the challenges of your life together be met with courage and optimism. May you learn from your failures and grow in your achievements. May life together bring you happiness, as friends and family become a wide network of mutual support and enjoyment. May you face life's pains, toils and troubles with a stout but light heart. May you share with others the radiance of your seasons of joy and pleasure. May you always remember that laughter is the medicine of the soul. May the spirit of love ever be a part of you lives so that the union we celebrate here today will be worthy of continued celebration today, tomorrow and forever.

You are now married. May you always remain sweethearts, helpmates and friends. May your life together be full of kindness and understanding, thoughtfulness and rejoicing. May the years bring you happiness and contentment. May you enter into each other's sorrow with sympathy, into each other's joy with gladness, into each other's hope with faith and trust, Into each other's need with the sure presence of love, and into each other's lives with enthusiasm and embracing.

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Now you will feel no rain, for each of you will be shelter for each other. Now you will feel no cold, for each of you will be warmth for each other. Now there will be no loneliness, for each of you will be companion to the other. Now you are two persons, but there is only one life before you. May beauty surround you both in the journey ahead and through all the years. May happiness be your companion and your days together be good and long upon the earth. Treat yourselves and each other with respect, and remind yourselves often of what brought you together. Give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness and kindness that your connection deserves. When frustration, difficult and fear assail your relationship – as they threaten all relationships at one time or another – remember to focus on what is right between you, not only the part which seems wrong. In this way, you can ride out the storms when clouds hide the face of the sun in your lives. Remember that even if you lose sight of it for a moment, the sun is still there. And if each of you takes responsibility for the quality of your life together, it will be marked by abundance and delight.

May the Lord bless and protect you and your marriage; may the Lord's face radiate with joy because of your love for each other; may the Lord be gracious to you and show you favor; may the Lord give you peace. (Numbers 6:23-26)

Omit this section

Additional Notes

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INTRODUCTION OF THE WEDDED COUPLE

Please select one of the following options for how you would like to be introduced for the first time as a married couple. This section of the wedding ceremony will follow the married couple's First Kiss.

Groom and Bride as husband and wife.

Mr. and Mrs. "Last Name Taken"

"First Name 1" and "Second Name 2" "Last Name 1 Taken"

Mr. and Mrs. "First Name 1" "Last Name 1 Taken"

"Full Name 1" and "Full Second Name 2 Maiden" as husband and wife.

I present to you "First 1 Name" and "Second Name 2", united in matrimony, equal partners for life.

Omit this section

Additional Notes

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ADDITIONAL CEREMONY OPTIONS

Please select any of the following additional ceremony options you would like to incorporate in your wedding ceremony.

Memorial Candle(s) to honor special loved ones who are attending the ceremony in spirit.

Wine Box Ceremony: Bride and Groom write letters to each other then seal them in a box with a bottle of wine. The couple agrees on when and why to open the box to read their letters and share the wine.

Rose Exchange Ceremony: Bride and Groom exchange roses as their first gift to each other.

Roses for mothers: The mothers of the Bride and Groom give a rose to their mothers.

Marriage Prayer

Communion: Just the Bride and Groom partaking or the Bride, Groom and guests all partaking together.

Hand Ceremony: Bride and Groom hold each hands palms up as the officiant shares the significance what their hands will do for each other.

Warming of the Rings: The wedding rings are passed amongst the guests while the ceremony is going on. Each guest hold the rings and says a silent prayer or a wish for the Bride and Groom.

“Our Story”: Each of you complete a set of a few questions (see below) but neither of you knows what the other’s responses are. I then build a story line or “moments and milestones” highlights to be read during your ceremony.

Blending of Water for Unity Ceremony: This water is kept in a special container then used when to christen your baby/ies.

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Five of my favorite moments are _____

I knew I wanted to marry him/her when _____

The three best adjectives that describe him/her are _____

You may not know this about him/her but _____

The funniest thing that ever happened to us was _____

The most difficult thing we've gone through was _____

When I'm in his/her arms I feel _____

Three hopes for our future are _____

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Thank you for choosing Direct Sounds Officiants to make your wedding day special. Once our team receives this completed Ceremony Planner, your officiant will send over a finalized ceremony reading for your review. Our team is working hard to ensure all of your needs are met and all of your dreams come true on your Big Day. If you have any questions or need anything else, please feel free to contact us at the information listed below, or reach out to your officiant directly. We look forward to continuing to build our connection with you, and strengthening the connections between you and the ones you love.

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