



# Civil Partnership Ceremony

## *Abridged*

### Welcome and Introduction

Good Morning / Afternoon to everyone present today. On behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you the warmest welcome to the *Chelsea Old Town Hall* here in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea for this very special occasion: their civil partnership ceremony.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and as a Deputy Superintendent Registrar for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, it is my privilege and pleasure to be leading you through this ceremony today. With me is my colleague, \_\_\_\_\_, a registrar of civil partnerships, who will record the details of this civil partnership in the register and assist the couple and witnesses with the signing.

This place in which we are met has been duly sanctioned according to law for the celebration of marriages and civil partnerships. We are gathered here today to witness the joining in civil partnership of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, in *(registrar confirms name of venue on authorities)*, and if any person here present knows of any lawful impediment to this civil partnership, they should declare this now.

(Partner 1) – Would you please confirm your full names?

(Partner 2) – Would you please confirm your full names?

As there have been no objections to your civil partnership we may now proceed with the ceremony and registration.

The civil ceremony is split into three parts. The first is when \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ declare that there is no legal reason why they cannot enter into civil partnership today. They will then say the vows to each other, and finally they will exchange rings.

### Optional Reading

(Ask the couple to stand)

### Vows

..... and ..... before you are joined in civil partnership I have to remind you of the solemn and binding character of the vows you are about to make.

I am now going to ask each of you in turn to declare that there is no reason why you may not enter into civil partnership with one another.

Please repeat after me:

#### ***TRADITIONAL VOWS (A)***

I do solemnly declare / that I know not / of any lawful impediment /  
why I \_\_\_\_\_ / may not be joined in civil partnership / to \_\_\_\_\_.

#### ***MODERN VOWS (B)***

I declare / that I know / of no legal reason / why I \_\_\_\_\_ / may not be joined in  
civil partnership / to \_\_\_\_\_.

#### ***SIMPLIFIED VOWS (C)***

Registrar asks:

“Are you \_\_\_\_\_ free lawfully to enter into civil partnership with \_\_\_\_\_?”

Civil partner replies “I am”.

And so we have now reached the solemn moment when \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ will  
contract their civil partnership before you, their witnesses gathered here today. Would you  
all please stand.

Please turn to face each other and repeat after me:

#### ***TRADITIONAL VOWS (A)***

I call upon / these persons here present / to witness that I \_\_\_\_\_ / do take thee  
\_\_\_\_\_ / to be my lawful civil partner.

#### ***MODERN VOWS (B)***

I \_\_\_\_\_ take thee \_\_\_\_\_ to be my civil partner.

#### ***SIMPLIFIED VOWS (C)***

I \_\_\_\_\_ take you \_\_\_\_\_ to be my civil partner.

You may be seated.

### Exchange of Rings

The ancient and traditional way of sealing a marriage or civil partnership contract is by the exchanging of rings; the wedding ring is an outward sign of the vows and the life-long promises that you have made to one another today.

\_\_\_\_\_ would you please bring forward the rings.

Please repeat after me:

I give you this ring / as a symbol of our civil partnership / and as a token of my love.

### Ceremony Conclusion

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ you have both made the solemn and binding vows and declarations prescribed by law and have exchanged rings in the presence of your family and friends gathered here today.

It now gives me great pleasure to say congratulations to you both and to declare that under the law of this country you are now legally united in civil partnership. (Optional: You may kiss.)

### Optional Reading

Thank you.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, your first duty as a couple joined in legal union is to sign the civil partnership schedule, and so I invite you both to take a seat at the registration desk.

**[NOTE TO REGISTRAR: Part 1 takes a seat then signs. Party 2 then takes the seat and signs. Witness 1 takes the seat and signs. Witness 2 takes the seat and signs]**

I would now like to invite the two witnesses to take a seat and also sign the schedule.

(Registrars then sign).

### End of Ceremony

Guests gathered here today, would you all please stand.

On behalf of my colleague \_\_\_\_\_ and myself, I would like to wish you all the best for a long and happy life together.

Please give a round of applause to the newlyweds, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Please now gather on the stone steps outside to congratulate the newlyweds.