

Marriage 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 marriage 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, _____, the (deputy) registrar of marriages, who will record the details of this marriage 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 matrimony of _____ and _____, in *(registrar confirms name of venue on authorities)*, and if any person here present knows of any lawful impediment to this marriage, 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 marriage 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 be married today. They will then say the contracting words to each other, joining them in union as husband/wife and husband/wife, and finally they will exchange rings.

Optional Reading

(Ask the couple to stand)

Vows

..... and before you are joined in matrimony I have to remind you of the solemn and binding character of the vows you are about to make. Marriage in this country

means the union of two people, voluntarily entered into, for life, to the exclusion of all others.

I am now going to ask each of you in turn to declare that there is no reason why you may not marry each other.

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 matrimony / to _____.

MODERN VOWS (B)

I declare / that I know / of no legal reason / why I _____ / may not be joined in
marriage / to _____.

SIMPLIFIED VOWS (C)

Registrar asks:

“Are you _____ free lawfully to marry _____?”

Bride/Groom replies “I am”.

And so we have now reached the solemn moment when _____ and _____ will
contract their marriage 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 lawfully wedded wife / husband.

MODERN VOWS (B)

I _____ take thee _____ to be my wedded wife / husband.

SIMPLIFIED VOWS (C)

I _____ take you _____ to be my wedded wife / husband.

You may be seated.

Exchange of Rings

The ancient and traditional way of sealing the marriage contract is by the exchanging of rings; in marriage, 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 marriage / 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 marriage. (Optional: You may kiss.)

Optional Reading

Thank you.

_____ and _____, your first duty as a married couple is to sign the register, 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 register.

(Registrars then sign).

Presentation of Certificate

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. Contained here within is your certificate – I hand this to both of you together for future safe-keeping.

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

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

