

*A few ideas to create your own ceremony.*

### **Marriage Vows**

I groom, take you bride, to be my lawful wife. To have and to hold, from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, while we both shall live. - or

Bride, With continued love, friendship, trust and communication, I groom, take You, bride, as my wife. When you need me I will be there, and when your strength fails you, may mine always be there for you. Side by side, step by step, may our great journey together begin here now from this day forward. - or

Bride, I want to be with you always, just as you are. I choose you above all others, to share my life with me in marriage. I love you for yourself, and I want you to become all that you can. I promise to honour this pledge as long as I live.

### **In placing the rings you might say:**

As I place this ring I declare my love for you. Wear it with happiness because it is a symbol of everything you mean to me. - or

As I give you this ring I vow to love and care for you and support you in our lives ahead. - or

With this ring I wed you and pledge my faithful love.

***We have lots of beautiful poems in our collection, here are just a couple.....***

### **Apache Wedding Prayer**

*Now we will feel no rain; for each of us will be  
shelter to each other  
And now we will feel no cold; for each of us will  
be warmth to each other.  
Now there is no more loneliness;  
we are two bodies;  
But there is one life before us, and one home.  
When evening falls I'll look to you and there you'll  
be. And I'll take your hand and you'll take mine,  
And we'll turn together,  
And we'll look to the road we travelled  
To reach this; this hour of our happiness.  
It stretched far behind us,  
and our future lies ahead.  
A long and winding road, where everything  
means discovery;  
All the hopes, new laughter, shared tears, the  
adventure has just begun.*

### **Taking Into Your Care**

*You are now taking into your care and keeping  
The happiness of the one person in all the world  
whom you love best.  
You are adding to your life not only the affection  
of each other,  
But also the companionship and blessing of a  
deep trust.  
You are agreeing to share strength,  
responsibilities and to share love.*

casey celebrants

*Celebrating lives*

What you  
need to know  
about planning  
a civil marriage  
ceremony

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**Member of Melbourne's "A" List of  
Women Celebrants**

Dear

*Thanks for your inquiry. I hope this information is helpful. If you have access to the internet look at our website for some more information. Please feel free to phone for an appointment to meet, there is no obligation to book, but it is always better to meet face to face first.*

*Best wishes, Dawn*

## About casey celebrants

I have been a celebrant for almost 30 years, and am now in partnership with my daughter, Lisa Beck, trading as **casey** celebrants, Together we have gathered many samples of ceremonies, vows, poems and ideas and we are only too willing to share these with you. Alternatively you can write your own, or I can help you to do this. I am committed to making your day as relaxed and enjoyable as possible and giving you the type of ceremony you choose. I will:

- *attend to all legal requirements*
- *meet with you to discuss your wishes*
- *offer professional presentation and sense of occasion*
- *provide all documentation, calligraphied marriage certificate and a beautifully presented copy of your ceremony.*

*Our website can be found at*

[www.dawndickson.com.au](http://www.dawndickson.com.au)

## The cost

As discussed, my fee is \$ \$100 of this is required to be paid when Notice of Intention to Marry is lodged with me. This fee confirms your booking. Should the marriage be cancelled this fee is non-refundable. The balance of monies owing is paid a week before the wedding when we meet again to finalise details.

## The ceremony

Civil marriage ceremonies allow you complete freedom of choice. A wedding is a serious and dignified occasion marking a major commitment in the lives of two people.

All weddings are lovely -it doesn't matter how many or how few guests are invited, how formal or informal, nor does it matter if the venue you choose is a reception centre, beautiful park or beach, or you own home. Whatever your choice it will be unique and memorable. We can work together to design the wedding that is perfect for you, and the memories of the day, will always remain.

Your wedding day is very special for you and it is important to me too. The ceremony is limited only by your imagination. If you want certain poetry or readings, or music, then they can be included. If you wish someone close to you to participate by reading, speaking, or singing, then of course, this can be included. If your wedding is being held in a park or public place, it is recommended that you appoint someone to bring along a small table and chair for the signing of the register.

## Legal requirements

A Notice of Intention to Marry form must be lodged with me at least one calendar month before the wedding. To lodge this Notice, the following is required:

- A Birth Certificate or Birth Extract for persons born in Australia. (If a party is born outside Australia an **overseas** passport may be presented, if the birth certificate is unavailable).
- a party has been previously married evidence of how the marriage ended must be produced, i.e. a (Decree Absolute of Divorce, or a Death Certificate.

**Witnesses:** The law requires that two witnesses aged 18 years or over must be present at the marriage (I am not able to provide these witnesses).

## Agreed starting time

It is suggested that you invite your guests 15 minutes earlier than the agreed starting time. Please also keep in mind the fact that I might have another marriage after yours, so make every effort to arrive promptly at the agreed time. Should the bride or groom not be ready to start within 15 minutes of the **agreed** time, I reserve the right, (should I have another commitment), to leave to attend to that commitment and will return at a later time to solemnise the marriage. When booking your wedding with me, if possible, I would like a copy of your wedding invitation to keep in my files, so that I can check exact starting time and venue. And after the wedding, I always appreciate receiving a photograph to add to my files, photo-board or website.