

# *Civil Ceremony Layout*

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## *Processional Music*

### *Opening Words*

*Friends, we have been invited here today to share with .... and .... a very important moment in their lives. In the years they have been together, their love and understanding of each other has grown and matured, and now they have decided to live their lives together as husband and wife.*

### *The Giving In Marriage*

*(Optional) The traditional wording is "Who gives this woman to be wedded to this man" but these days many couples opt for something such as "Who supports this couple in their marriage?" or "Who supports this woman in her marriage to this man?" or choose to leave it out altogether.*

### *Music*

### *An Opening Prayer Or First Reading*

*This will generally set the tone of your wedding. It could be serious, humorous, sentimental, or elegant. Typically, it says something about love, relationships, or marriages.*

*Background instrumental music can be nice during this part*

### *Definition Of Marriage*

*Here the registrar says some words about marriage in general. He or she will most likely talk about the seriousness of the solemn vow you are about to make, and the new life together you are creating.*

### *Wedding Vows*

*These can be written by yourselves OR the registrar can call out the standard ones to you.*

### *Music*

### *Second Reading*

...

### *Exchange Of Rings*

*The bride and groom say ...*

*1. I (name) give you (name) this ring as an eternal symbol of my love and commitment to you. or . . .*

2. *I give you this ring as a symbol of my love and faithfulness. As I place it on your finger, I commit my heart and soul to you. I ask you to wear this ring as a reminder of the vows we have spoken today, our wedding day. or . . .*

3. *This ring is a token of my love. I marry you with this ring, with all that I have and all that I am. Response: I will forever wear this ring as a sign of my commitment and the desire of my heart or . . .*

4. *I give you this ring to wear with love and joy.*

*Music*

*Lighting Of Unity Candle Or Other Unity Ceremony - Music During Candle Ceremony / Signing of the register*

*Many couples are choosing to add a unity ceremony. They may choose to do this in silence, with music playing or they may create vows to say about the joining of their families.*

*Closing*

*This could be a poem, a prayer, or a sanctioning of the marriage. It is generally the "final thoughts" of the officiant.*

*Declaration Of Marriage*

*The officiant typically says something akin to "By the power vested in me by the State, I now pronounce you husband and wife" or "I now pronounce you married." This is followed by the first kiss of the newly married couple.*

*Introduction Of Newly Weds*

*The officiant says "I present to you Mr. and Mrs...."*

*The guests stand and applaud, as the couple then lead the recessional out.*

*Recessional Music*