

Thurrock Register Office

Example civil partnership ceremony

What is civil partnership?

To the whole party:

Ladies and gentlemen, my name is _____ and I am a Civil Partnership Registrar for Thurrock.

The place in which you are now met has been duly sanctioned, according to law, for the celebration of civil partnerships.

On behalf of _____ and _____, I would like to welcome you all here today to share with them in this partnership ceremony. Through their vows they are making a commitment to each other, and through your presence here you are expressing your support for them.

However, if any person here present knows of any lawful impediment to this partnership then he or she should declare it now.

Partnership is a desire by two people to share themselves and their experiences with each other, and a willingness to accept each other for who they are.

It means making a commitment to developing co-operation, friendship and mutual respect. It calls for honesty, patience, and of course humour! Partnership is where each partner cares for the other and supports them in all that they do.

It demands courage – the courage to be open, the courage to grow and change, and the courage to sort out together the tasks of everyday living.

Partnership requires closeness and distance – closeness for a couple growing together and enough distance to allow each partner to be individual. A good partner in such a partnership will be loving, caring, and above all a best friend.

It is in this spirit that _____ and _____ are now before us. In each other's company they have found happiness, fulfilment and love.

_____ and _____, we celebrate with you today. We are glad to join with you in the solemnisation of your partnership, to witness your vows and to support you in your intentions for your future life together.

I am now going to ask each of you to declare that you know of no lawful reason why you may not be joined in partnership to each other.

To party one:

Please repeat after me:

**I do solemnly declare
that I know not
of any lawful impediment
why I, _____,
may not form a civil partnership
with _____.**

To party two:

Please repeat after me:

**I do solemnly declare
that I know not
of any lawful impediment
why I, _____,
may not form a civil partnership
with _____.**

A family member or friend may now read poetry or prose.

Now the special moment has come for this couple to exchange rings with each other.

Ladies and gentlemen, will you all please stand.

_____ and _____, a ring is a customary way of sealing the contract you are about to make. It is an unbroken circle, which symbolises unending and everlasting love, and is the outward sign of the lifelong promise you will make to each other.

To party one:

_____, please repeat after me:

**_____, I give you this ring,
as a symbol of my love and affection.
Wear it with happiness and pride,
now and always.**

**I call upon our family and friends assembled here today
to witness that I, _____,
take you, _____,
to be my lifelong partner
to love, respect, and cherish,
as long as we both shall live.**

To party two:

_____, please repeat after me:

**_____, I give you this ring,
as a symbol of my love and affection.
Wear it with happiness and pride,
now and always.**

**I call upon our family and friends assembled here today
to witness that I, _____,
take you, _____,
to be my lifelong partner
to love, respect, and cherish,
as long as we both shall live.**

To the couple:

_____ and _____, you have made special promises to one another in the presence of your family and friends gathered here today. Let everyone recognise that you will now become civil partners. May you treasure this trust and responsibility, may no failure or misfortune ever part you and may you live full and rich lives together.

Now ladies and gentlemen, please be seated while the schedule is signed.

A family member or friend may now read poetry or prose.

As you have witnessed, a civil partnership is a brief, simple ceremony but you are legally and solemnly joined together in civil partnership and I would like to be the first to congratulate you both.