

Thurrock Register Office

Example marriage ceremony

Traditional

To the whole wedding party:

Good morning / afternoon, ladies and gentlemen

Welcome to _____ (venue name) on this special day for _____ and _____.

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

We are here this afternoon to witness the joining in matrimony of _____ and _____, if anyone here knows of any lawful impediment to this marriage, they should declare it now.

To the couple:

Before you are joined in matrimony, I have to remind you both 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 shall now ask both of you, in turn, to declare that you do not know of any lawful reason as to why you should not be married to each other.

To party one:

Please repeat after me:

**I do solemnly declare
that I know not
of any lawful impediment
why I, _____ (full name)
may not be joined in matrimony
to _____ (full name).**

To party two:

Please repeat after me:

**I do solemnly declare
that I know not
of any lawful impediment
why I, _____ (full name)
may not be joined in matrimony
to _____ (full name).**

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

To the whole wedding party:

Now the solemn moment has arrived for these two persons to contract their marriage before you, their witnesses. Could the witnesses and the guests please stand.

Optional – first to party one, then to party two:

_____, do you take _____ to be your wife/husband?

I do.

_____, do you take _____ to be your husband/wife?

I do.

Marriage rings are presented at this point.

To party one:

Please repeat after me:

**I give you this ring on the occasion of our marriage
as a symbol of my love and commitment.
I call upon these persons here present
to witness that I, _____ (full name),
do take thee, _____ (full name),
to be my lawful wedded wife/husband
to love, respect and cherish, now and always.**

To party two:

Please repeat after me:

**(as above or) I accept this ring on the occasion of our marriage
as a symbol of my love and commitment.
I call upon these persons here present
to witness that I, _____ (full name),
do take thee, _____ (full name),
to be my lawful wedded husband/wife
to love, respect and cherish, now and always.**

To the couple:

Now you have both made the declarations as prescribed by law and have made a solemn and binding marriage contract with each other in the presence of your witnesses here assembled, so from this moment on my colleague, _____ and I are delighted to record that you have now become husband / wife and wife / husband.

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

Now ladies and gentlemen, please be seated while the register is completed. As you have witnessed, a civil marriage is a brief, simple ceremony but you are legally and solemnly joined together in matrimony and I would like to be the first to congratulate you both.