

Standard Wedding Ceremony for Simple Elopements

This is the standard ceremony I use with a "Simple Elopement".

There are three questions below for you to answer .

This ceremony will only take about 10 minutes. It seems like a lot when written out, but it's quick.

I. Welcome/Opening Words :

Very brief welcome, introduce myself, and remind folks to silence cell phones...any other announcements you need made about the mechanics of the day.

Then I would say a very few words about the significance of the day and what an honor it is for me to take part

II Opening Prayers:

I will ask you beforehand whether you want an opening prayer ; If so, this is my standard one.

*****1.DO YOU WANT A PRAYER ?**

Opening Prayer #1

Let us begin by welcoming the presence of God within each of us.

As we lift into the loving
that joins us together as one,
let us surround Bride and Groom
with our love, our prayers,
and our best wishes for them
on this, their wedding day,
and throughout their journey together
as Marriage Partners.

V. Readings:

These are the hands of your partner, young and strong and full of love, holding your hands as you promise to love each other today, tomorrow, and forever. These are the hands that will work alongside yours as together you build your future. These are the hands that will hold you and comfort you in grief and uncertainty. These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes, tears of sorrow and joy. These are the hands that will hold your family as one. These are the hands that will give you strength. And these are the hands that even when wrinkled and aged, will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch.

V. Declaration of Intent

This is really the essential part of the ceremony. All that is really required legally is for the officiant to certify that the individuals intend to be married. Even an elopement must have a "Declaration of Intent", which can be as simple as the basic: This is the standard one I use:

Officiant to Groom

Do you take _____ to be your lawfully wedded partner, to have and to hold, in sickness and health, to love, honor and respect, in good times and bad, for richer or poorer, keeping yourself solely unto her for as long as you both shall live? If so answer "I do".

Responds: I do. Then repeat for bride

VI Vows

Many write their own vows, or modify standard ones. It is a chance to actually speak to each other and express your feelings and values.

I will ask beforehand if you will write vows to each other. If not , I will ask each of you to repeat after me this vow:

*****2. ARE YOU WRITING VOWS TO EACH OTHER OR WILL YOU REPEAT THIS ONE AFTER ME ?**

"I, _____, take you, _____, to be no other than yourself. Loving what I know of you, trusting what I do not yet know, I will respect your integrity and have faith in your abiding love for me, through all our years, and in all that life may bring us."

VII. Exchange Of Rings

If there are rings, we will do the ring exchange right after the vows:

***** 3. ARE YOU EXCHANGING RINGS ?**

I will say something like this:

***As circles, wedding rings remind us that as we give our love,
so it comes back around to us,
and that we give and receive love in a circle growing stronger as it***

_____ goes;
_____ and _____ will now exchange rings as a symbol of their love and commitment;

Then the couple will repeat after me these ring vows to each other as they exchange the rings.

"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 .

VIII. Pronouncement

OK, at last, this is where I say, " _____ and _____ You have stated vows, and exchanged rings, so by the power vested in me by the state of _____, I pronounce you husband and wife