



Ceremony Information Kit

Your Elopement Ceremony – Flow and Scripting Elements

Let's take a closer look at the traditional flow of an Elopement Ceremony, along with scripting options and suggestions to get you started. Feel free to use this exact wording if you like, or change it to make it more "you". Elements in bold are ones that legally must be included – everything else is optional and/or customisable!

Have fun making your Ceremony yours and remember: I'm here any time you may need to bounce ideas off someone. Let's make a Ceremony you both will LOVE and your guests will remember for years to come.

Whilst guests are waiting

- I will ask all guests to sit as close to the front as possible so that your photos won't show gaps in the seating. Trust me that this makes a huge difference!
- I will advise guests of where the bathrooms are located

Pre-Ceremony music

- Which PA System will you use? Included in your booking is the use of my PA for this if required.
- Who will take care of playing the Ceremony music? This includes fading in and out of songs at key points so it's best to appoint someone trustworthy.

Housekeeping (delete or edit, as required)

Welcome along to the beautiful (ceremony location) for this very special day for (partner 1) and (partner 2). Before we commence, I have a couple of short announcements.

For Ceremonies in a national or council park – acknowledging the traditional land owners can happen here, if desired:

'On behalf of (partner 1) and (partner 2), I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we <gather/meet> today, and pay my respects to their Elders past and present. I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today.'

Guests' seating

Now as you may have already realised, our lovely couple have invited (partner 1)'s family and friends be seated on the left hand side of the aisle and (partner 2)'s family and friends be seated on the right hand side. If you need to change your seating, I invite you to do so now.

OR

As this marriage represents the joining of 2 families, you are invited to sit or stand on either side.

Guest photography

(Partner 1) and (Partner 2) would love for you to be fully present with them this afternoon and so have requested an unplugged ceremony. This means we can all put our phones into our bags or pockets, relax and enjoy the beautiful ceremony. We have a wonderful professional photographer here today who will be sure to capture all the special moments, so you won't miss anything.

OR

You are very welcome to take your own photos during the ceremony but please be courteous of our professional photographer and keep the aisle clear when taking photos.

Social media

Our lovely couple are more than happy for you to post photos to social media during the day and night, as long as they're edited and filtered so everyone looks like supermodels. Please make sure you use their unique hashtag #..... so we can all enjoy the photos later.

OR

(Partner 1) and (partner 2) have kindly requested that any photos you take today be shared with only yourselves, and that you please refrain from posting on social media until their official wedding photographs have been posted.

Finally, I would like to ask all guests to please turn your mobile phones to silent or switch them off for the duration of the ceremony.

Please stand for the arrival of Partner 1.

Processional (or Bridal March)

Please be seated.

Good afternoon. **My name is Rowena Travi and I am an Authorised Marriage Celebrant.** On behalf of (partner 1) and (partner 2), I would like to welcome you here today to celebrate their love and happiness as they become husband and wife / lifelong partners / whichever wording you would love here.

Giving away of the bride / partner 1

Who presents this bride / partner 1 to be married today?
(Person/people to stand and say, "I/we do").

Introduction

(Partner 1) and (Partner 2) are very much in love, and have asked each and every one of you – their dear family and friends – to be here today to witness their formalised commitment to each other. They have realised that there is no-one else they would rather walk through this life with. Marriage represents a joining together of two people who are soul mates, who share the same values and vision for the future, and who want to build a life together. It's growing together, sharing new experiences, creating special memories, and supporting the other to achieve every dream in their heart.

(Partner 1) and (Partner 2)'s beliefs about marriage

(Partner 1) and (partner 2) believe that marriage is....

*Brief couple story (optional) – 2 minutes
(How you met, something unique about you as a couple etc)*

MONITUM - REQUIRED WORDING

*Please refer to the appendix at the bottom of this document for permissible changes in Monitum wording.

I am duly authorised by law to solemnize marriages according to law.

Before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of these witnesses, I am to remind you of the solemn and binding nature of the relationship into which you are now about to enter.

Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of two people to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.

The asking (optional)

Do you, (partner 2), present yourself here today to be joined in marriage with (partner 1), promising to be faithful and honest with her, as long as you both may live? [Partner 1 says, "I do"]

Do you, (partner 1), present yourself here today to be joined in marriage with (partner 2), promising to be faithful and honest with him, as long as you both may live? [Partner 1 says, "I do"]

LEGAL VOWS - REQUIRED WORDING

*Please refer to the appendix at the bottom of this document for permissible changes in vow wording.

Partner 2, please repeat after me:

I call upon the persons here present to witness that I, (partner 2), take you, (partner 1), to be my lawful wedded wife / partner / whichever wording you would prefer here.

Vows (personal/additional - optional)

Partner 1, please repeat after me:

I call upon the persons here present to witness that I, (partner 1), take you, (partner 2) to be my lawful wedded husband / partner / whichever wording you would love.

Vows (personal/additional - optional)

Ring exchange

(Partner 1) and (Partner 2) will now exchange rings as a symbol of love and commitment to each other. Rings are a precious metal; they are also made precious by you wearing them. These rings are special; they enhance who you are. They mark the beginning of your long journey together. Your ring is a circle—a symbol of love never ending. It is the seal of the vows you have just taken to love each other without end.

Where both parties will wear a ring

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

This ring I give to you as a token of my love and devotion to you. I pledge to you all that I am and all that I will ever be as your (*husband/wife/partners*). With this ring, I gladly marry you and join my life to yours.

Partner 2 will not be receiving a ring so Partner 1 will 'accept' the ring placed on her/his finger

I ask you to accept this ring as a symbol of my eternal love,
My everlasting friendship,
And the promise of all my tomorrows.
Will you accept this ring? ["I will"]

OR

I offer my vow to you in the form of this ring,
so that my word and my love,
will always be with you,
close to your heart.
Will you accept this ring? ["I will"]

The pronouncing

I am truly honoured and pleased to announce that you have made the commitment to each other today to be lifelong partners from this moment on.

I will now ask (partner 1) and (partner 2) to join me in signing the Marriage certificates. During this time, please remain where you are, chat amongst yourselves and enjoy the beautiful view and music. We'll be back with you shortly.

OR

(Partner 1) and (Partner 2), you have expressed your love to one another through the commitment and promises you have just made. It is with these in mind that I pronounce you husband and wife.

You have kissed a thousand times, maybe more.

But today the feeling is new.

No longer simply partners and best friends, you have become husband and wife and can now seal the agreement with a kiss.

Today, your kiss is a promise.

You may kiss!

Signing of the Register

I now ask (partner 1) and (partner 2) and our witnesses, (witness 1) and (witness 2) to please join me as we sign the Register. During this time, please remain where you are, chat amongst yourselves and enjoy the beautiful view and music. We'll be back with you shortly.

Ritual (optional)

(Lighting of a candle, coloured sand, other family or cultural ritual)

Conclusion

(Partner 1) and (partner 2) are very excited to talk to you all but first, need to be whisked away with the bridal / attendance party by our wonderful photographer for their wedding photos. You are free to indulge in the delicious canapes and champagne which are awaiting you, mingle, take some fun photos in the photo booth, and enjoy the afternoon.

Summing up or Blessing

I, and everyone here today, wish you both a very long, happy life full of laughter, joy, and love. A very warm congratulations to you!

Presentation of the Newlyweds

And without any further to do, I would like to introduce to you all, Mr and Mrs (surname) / whichever titles you prefer / apply here.

Recessional

*And there you have it! You are then married and can sail off into the sunset together.
Don't forget: I am here with you every step of the way to help with any and all questions you may
have so please don't hesitate to contact me if you need!*

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Appendix:

Notes about changing the wording of the Monitum and legal vows

1. Monitum as per Section 46

"I am **duly authorised by law** to solemnise marriages according to law. Before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of these witnesses, I am to remind you of the **solemn** and **binding nature** of the relationship into which you are now **about to enter**. Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of two people to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life."

Standard wording	Permissible change
duly authorised by law	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ legally registered, or▪ the registered marriage celebrant authorised
solemn	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ serious, or▪ formal
binding	permanent
nature	promise
about to enter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ formalising▪ sealing, or▪ binding

2. Exchange of wedding vows (minimum wording, as per Section 45(2))

"I call upon the persons here present to witness that I, A.B. (or C.D.), take thee, C.D. (or A.B.), to be my lawful wedded wife (*or* husband, *or* spouse)".

Standard wording	Permissible change
call upon	ask
persons	people
thee	you
wife/husband	spouse