



Your Legals Only Ceremony – Flow and Scripting Elements

Let's take a closer look at the flow of a Legals o 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!

THE WELCOME

Ceremony of less than 20 guests

We have gathered here today to witness the joyful marriage of (Partner 1) and (Partner 2). They have chosen to share this most important day with an intimate group of their very dearest friends and family, and feel very honoured to be surrounded by such love and warmth. Each and every one of you holds a special place in their hearts for all the support you have shown, lessons you have shared, and for being here to celebrate their marriage with them.

OR

(Partner 1) and (Partner 2) have come here today to be married and they wish to acknowledge and thank each and every one of you – their nearest and dearest friends and family – for showering them with love and support today and always. They feel blessed to have each of you in their lives, and look forward to celebrating this special day with you.

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.

INTRODUCTION AND MONITUM

**Please see appendix at the bottom of this document for permissible word changes*

**My name is Rowena Travi and I am an Authorised Marriage Celebrant.
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 2 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 see appendix at the bottom of this document for permissible word changes*

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 / spouse.

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 / spouse.

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*). With this ring, I gladly marry you and join my life to yours.

THE PRONOUNCING AND KISS

I am now truly honoured and pleased to pronounce you husband and wife / lawfully wedded / official lifelong partners / whichever wording you would love here. (Partner 2), you may kiss your bride / spouse / partner / whichever wording you would love here.

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.

PRESENTATION AS HUSBAND AND WIFE

(Partner 1) and (Partner 2), you have exchanged your vows and made your promises, and celebrated your union with the giving and receiving of rings in the presence of your family and friends. On this beautiful day you have chosen each other as your life partner, to walk beside you and share all that you are forever more. It is with the greatest happiness that I therefore now present you to the world, for the very first time, Mr and Mrs / Mr and Mr / Mrs and Mrs (surname).

Appendix regarding legally permissible word changes:

Notes about changing the wording of the Monitum and legal vows

1. Monitum as per Section 46, Marriage Act 1961.

"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)), Marriage Act 1961.

"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 |