

# City of Oshawa Civil Marriage Ceremony – Script 4

## Welcome

We are gathered here today to witness and to celebrate the marriage of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, as they pledge themselves to each other. Theirs is a partnership freely chosen and founded on love, friendship, trust and respect. It is a partnership that encourages not only self-expression, understanding and the development of wisdom through the sharing of knowledge, but also an enthusiasm for life and living. It must be done with respect, consideration and a deep and gentle caring for one another.

## Declaration of Commitment

Marriage is a commitment in life, where two people find and bring out the very best in each other. As such, marriage is not to be entered upon thoughtlessly or irresponsibly but with a due and serious understanding and appreciation of the ends for which it is contracted.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, you have made it known that you want to be joined in marriage. If either of you know of any lawful impediment why you should not be married, you are now to declare it.

**Officiant to the 1st person: Repeat after me please.**

“I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, \_\_\_\_\_, may not be joined in matrimony to \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Officiant to the 2nd person: Repeat after me please.**

“I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, \_\_\_\_\_, may not be joined in matrimony to \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Officiant:** Who gives this woman/man to be married to this woman/man?

\_\_\_\_\_ to respond: “I do”.

Do you, \_\_\_\_\_, give them your blessing this day and promise to support and honour them in marriage?

\_\_\_\_\_ to respond: "Yes, I do".

## **Declaration of Vows**

Today you are dedicating yourselves to that most fragile of endeavors - a human relationship. The words spoken in this ceremony will not validate your marriage unless your love and commitment to one another are strong enough to sustain it.

***Please face each other to repeat your vows.***

***Officiant to the 1st person: Repeat after me please.***

"I call upon these persons here present to witness that I, \_\_\_\_\_ do take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my lawful wedded (husband, wife, spouse or partner). I will share my life openly with you and will love, cherish and respect you. I promise to tenderly care for you and I will encourage you in the fulfillment of your dreams and individuality throughout the changes in our lives."

***Officiant to the 2nd person: Repeat after me please.***

"I call upon these persons here present to witness that I, \_\_\_\_\_ do take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my lawful wedded (husband, wife, spouse or partner). I will share my life openly with you and will love, cherish and respect you. I promise to tenderly care for you and I will encourage you in the fulfillment of your dreams and individuality throughout the changes in our lives."

## **Exchange of Rings**

***Please place the ring on the 3rd finger of the left hand.***

The perfect circle of a ring symbolizes eternity. In the years to come this ring should remind you of the overwhelming joy of this special occasion when you were united in marriage.

**Officiant to the 1st person: Repeat after me please.**

“With all my love, I give you this ring as an everlasting symbol of the vows we have made to each other and as a token of my love for you.

**Officiant to the 2nd person: Repeat after me please.**

With all my love, I give you this ring as an everlasting symbol of the vows we have made to each other and as a token of my love for you.

## **Signing of the Register**

At this time, the couple and their witnesses will sign the Official Marriage Register.

## **Ceremony Conclusion**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, from this day on, may you always communicate openly and honestly with each other and live these days in joy.

Love is more than a feeling, it's a commitment. It's a commitment to work things out and to resolve issues - to communicate when it's hard to, forgive each other and start fresh each day. Good marriages take time and effort to build and that is your commitment to each other today.

May you live in the company of each other in peace and trust and may your days be filled with the rewards of all that you have endured to bring you to this place. May you endlessly delight in each other and love and fulfill each other always.

I, [Name of Officiant], by virtue of the powers vested in me by the *Marriage Act*, do hereby pronounce you, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to be married.

You may celebrate your marriage with a kiss.

I wish you a long life, happiness and prosperity. May the vows you made to one another today sustain you forever.