

A SIMPLE CEREMONY

(A Ten Minute Ceremony)

A CALL TO CELEBRATION

To all the family and friends of ____ and ____, I welcome you here to share with them their joy as they pledge vows of marriage which will unite them in marriage. Let us all join in our love and support of ____ and ____, with our best wishes for their everlasting happiness.

ADDRESS

Marriage is one of the most important commitments that any two people can commit to in their lifetime. Marriage offers the greatest of challenges to overcome; but, in return, marriage gives love, strength and support from one another. It is the couple who preserves and demonstrates unrelenting patience and faith who obtains the highest form of happiness within their marriage.

A good marriage is dependent upon many factors, but the first prerequisite is a strong bond of friendship and respect for one another. Your love for each other will grow with each passing day, but a genuine liking for each other, the willingness to accept each other's strong and weak points with understanding and respect, is the foundation of a strong marriage.

READING

(A special reading may be inserted.)

PRAYER *(Optional)*

QUESTION OF INTENT

The Vows which you are about to exchange serve as a verbal representation of the love you pledge to each other. For it is not the words you speak which will bond you together as one, but it is the inner sense of love and commitment that each of you feels within your heart and soul.

____, do you take ____ to be your wife/husband? Do you promise to love and respect her/him and share all life has to offer...your hopes and dreams...your achievements and disappointments with her/him from this day forward?

THE EXCHANGE OF VOWS AND RINGS

May these rings always remain a symbol of the covenant which you now make, and may your love be as endless as the circle in which these rings are formed. (These words are repeated after the officiate as the rings are placed on both on the third finger of the left hand, with the groom going first, followed by the bride.) "I, ____, take you, ____, just as you are above all others, to share my life. I give you this ring as a symbol of our everlasting love."

SAND CEREMONY *(optional)*

You have just sealed your relationship by giving and receiving rings and the exchange of vows. This covenant is a relationship pledge between two people who agree that they will commit themselves to one another throughout their lives. The most beautiful example of this partnership is the marriage relationship. You have committed to share the rest of your lives with each other. This is symbolized through the pouring of these two individual containers of sand, one representing each of you, all that you were, all that you are, and all that you will be. As these two containers of sand are poured into the third container, the individual containers of sand will be joined together as one. Just as the grains of sand can never be separated so may your marriage be forever and a day.

PRONOUNCEMENT

By Virtue of the authority given me by the State of Texas, and in conformity with the law, I pronounce that you are husband and wife. May you live together in blissful happiness from this day forward. You may kiss the bride!

I present to you Mr.& Mrs. _____.