

# Naming Ceremonies

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Congratulations on preparing to celebrate your child with a special occasion. Many people do not believe in a traditional baptism but do want some form of ceremony that is in response to their needs. The celebration of new life is a magical time for parents, family and friends. Naming ceremonies welcome a child into the world and are designed to embrace the joy of the family union. The naming ceremony is a celebration by all of the people involved in your child's life. It is an opportunity for you to state in front of your family and friends the unconditional love and care, support and encouragement that you will continue to provide as a parent. It is a celebration with family and friends, when you and the supporting adults chosen, affirm a commitment to your child, in front of those who mean the most to you. Supporting adults, guardians, mentors, sponsors, whichever term you choose, is a role, which is an honour to those chosen. For your child, it is a bond with an adult who will take a special interest in their development and growth. If you decide on a Naming Ceremony, it does not mean that your child cannot have a religious Baptism at the same time. You can have a baptism in the church, followed by the Naming Celebration at home. This is often chosen by couples from different cultures. A naming ceremony can contain a prayer, spoken or shared, or the ceremony can be non-religious. Either way, this ceremony will in no way inhibit your child from choosing their own path or beliefs as they become adults. The ceremony does however, encourage, an appreciation of family, a respect for others and a delight in nature. Most of all it celebrates the family "community" in which you formally share your child's, FIRST Rite of Passage. Your child will receive a certificate, as do the godparents or guardians or mentors, along with a copy of their ceremony as a memento of the day. The Naming Ceremony can be held in the privacy of your own home, a park, or venue of your choice. Naming Ceremonies usually consist of:

- Introduction and welcome to family and guests
- The Naming and Blessing
- Appointment of Godparents, Mentors or Guardians
- Candle ceremony
- Conclusion
- Presentation of Certificates

Contact me for further details.