

## Sample Wedding Ceremony

The CeremonyAs set out in the Marriage Act 1961 there are two legal components to a marriage ceremony. They are the monitum and the vows. Once these areas have been included you are free to add anything else you would like. Monitum from the Marriage Act My name is Christine Bartlett and I am the civil marriage celebrant who will solemnize this happy marriage. 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 a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life. Vows I call upon everyone here today to witness that I Name, take you Name to be my wife/husband. The following is a sample ceremony:

**Introduction** Bernadette and Joshua welcome you to share their happiness during this, the time of their rite of passage into married life. Their commitment to each other has been made for some time now and they have now chosen to live together in marriage. What they mean to each other is obvious, and want you to know that their choice is responsible, free, independent and happy. Bernadette and Joshua also believe that a happy marriage will enable them to establish a home where there will be love and stability. A home where you, their family and their friends, will find welcome, peace, love and support, strengthened today, by this ceremony. Bernadette and Joshua are ecstatic that their experiences have brought them to the place where they are ready to fulfil what is theirs to accomplish in this life, to join the forces of their individual spirits, capabilities, and backgrounds. Therefore, we celebrate with them their arrival at the portal of true conscious loving and are honoured to witness this joyous occasion in their lives. My name is Christine Bartlett and I am the civil marriage celebrant who will solemnize this happy marriage. 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 a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life. **The Giving Away** Today, Jane gives her daughter in marriage to Joshua. However, this does not mean that her love and caring for her is also given away. The love between a mother and her daughter is one that cannot be measured and can never cease to exist; but it can be shared. And so, mindful of these values, I ask you, "Do you, Deborah, give your daughter Bernadette to the care of Joshua?" Jane: I do

**The Asking** Joshua will you take Bernadette to be your wife and your lifelong partner. Will you constantly try to stay aware of your relationship with her, striving to communicate with her, be sensitive to her needs, wanting her success and happiness through all the years ahead? Joshua: I will Bernadette, will you take Joshua to be your husband and your lifelong partner. Will you constantly try to stay aware of your relationship with him, striving to communicate with him, be sensitive to his needs, wanting his success and happiness through all the years ahead? Bernadette: I will

**The Vows** Joshua's vow: I call upon everyone here today to witness that I, Joshua James Blanche, take thee, Bernadette Mary Osmond, to be my lawful wedded wife. I Joshua take you Bernadette to be my wife. To be no other than yourself. Loving what I know of you, trusting what I do not yet know, with respect for your integrity and faith in your love for me, through all the years and in all that life may bring us, this is my pledge to you. Bernadette's vow: I call upon everyone here today to witness that I, Bernadette Mary Osmond, take thee, Joshua James Blanche, to be my lawful wedded husband. From this day I take you, my beloved, Joshua to be my husband, to live with you and laugh with you; to stand by your side and sleep in your arms; to be joy to your heart and food to your soul; to bring out the best in you always; and, for you, to be the most that I can. To laugh with you in the good times; to struggle with you in the bad; to solace you when you are downhearted; to wipe your tears with my hands; to comfort you with my body; to mirror you with my soul; to share with you all my riches and honours until we grow old.

**Exchanging of Rings** Wedding rings serve as a symbol of the vows you have just made. As rings are without edge or seam having no beginning and no end, so they symbolise the perfection of love which knows no end. Bernadette and Joshua to repeat after celebrant: With this ring I thee wed and I make you a promise that from this day forward, you shall not walk alone. My heart will be your shelter and my arms will be your home.

Amy

This is not only the marriage of Bernadette and Joshua but also the joining together of a family. Amy - Bernadette and Joshua promise to be there whenever you need them. They want you to know how proud they are of you especially today. They look at you everyday and can see the beautiful young lady you are becoming. They want everyone here today to know just how special you are to them and how important this day is not only for them, but for you, as you will be changing your name from Osmond to Blanche. Just as Bernadette and Joshua have declared their love for each other by giving each other a personal gift of a ring, they now want to declare their love to you Amy by giving you a personal gift. Amy take this gift as a symbol of their love for you and their commitment to you as a family.

**Poem** Sometimes in life, you find a special person, Someone who changes your life by being a part of it. Someone who convinces you that there is an unlocked door, just waiting for you to open it. This is forever friendship. When you're down, and the world seems dark and empty, Your forever friend lifts you up in spirit, and makes that dark and empty world - Suddenly seem bright and full. Your forever friend gets you through the hard times, the sad times and the confused

times.If you turn and walk away, your forever friend follows, If you lose your way, your forever friend guides you and cheers you on.Your forever friend holds your hand and tells you that everything is going to be okay.And when you find such a friend, you feel happy and complete, because you need not worry. You have a forever friend for life, and Forever, has no end.

Wedding BlessingBernadette and Joshua, marriage is the joining of two people, the union of two hearts. It lives on the love you give each other and never grows old, but thrives on the joy of each new day --- Marriage is love. May you always be blessed in your hearts with the wonder of this special day. May you always be able to talk things over, to confide in each other, to laugh with each other, to enjoy life together, and to share moments of quiet and peace, when the day is done. May you be blessed with a lifetime of happiness.

Declaration of MarriageBernadette and Joshua have declared before all of us that they have freely agreed each to marry the other and have made between them a contract of marriage.They have made special promises to each other.They have symbolised it by joining hands, by taking vows, and by exchanging rings.Therefore, by the authority vested in me, I now have very great pleasure in pronouncing you husband and wife. Joshua you may now kiss your wife. Contact me for further information and samples of ceremonies.