

# Thurrock Register Office

## Example marriage ceremony

### Will you?

#### To the whole wedding party:

Good morning / afternoon and a warm welcome to you all. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ the Superintendent Registrar and with me is \_\_\_\_\_ the Registrar.

The place in which you are now met has been duly sanctioned, according to law, for the celebration of marriage.

We are here today to witness the marriage of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and on their behalf I would like to thank you for joining them to witness the start of their new life together. I know it means a great deal to them that you can be here to share in their happiness on this occasion.

However, if any person here present knows of any lawful impediment to this marriage then he or she should declare it now.

Through their vows they are making a commitment to each other for the rest of their lives. Marriage is not an easy path. It requires devotion, the ability to listen, the wisdom to know when we are wrong, and the strength to put things right.

For \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, getting married today is a proud confirmation of the love, the respect and the true friendship that they have for each other. Together they will be stronger to meet whatever life holds for them.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, today you will exchange vows which will unite you as husband/wife and wife/husband. The words are a formal and public pledge of your love, and a promise of lifelong dedication to each other.

Before you are joined in matrimony it is my duty to remind you of the solemn and binding character of the vows you are about to make. Marriage in this country means the union of two people, voluntarily entered into for life, to the exclusion of all others.

I am now going to ask each of you to declare that you know of no lawful reason why you may not be joined in matrimony to each other.

#### To party one:

Please repeat after me:

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

**To party two:**

Please repeat after me:

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

Now the solemn moment has come for this couple to make their marriage contract with each other in the presence of you their witnesses and guests.

**To party one:**

Please repeat after me:

**I call upon these persons here present  
to witness that I \_\_\_\_\_,  
do take thee, \_\_\_\_\_,  
to be my lawful wedded wife/husband  
to love, respect, and cherish,  
as long as we both shall live.**

**To party two:**

Please repeat after me:

**I call upon these persons here present  
to witness that I \_\_\_\_\_,  
do take thee, \_\_\_\_\_,  
to be my lawful wedded wife/husband  
to love, respect, and cherish,  
as long as we both shall live.**

We have now come to the exchange of rings, which is the traditional way of sealing the contract you have both just made. The wedding ring is an unbroken circle; it has no beginning and no end. It symbolises unending and everlasting love and is an outward sign of the lifelong promise you have made to each other.

**To party one:**

Please repeat after me:

**\_\_\_\_\_ I give you this ring,  
as a symbol of my love, affection, and respect,  
now and always.**

**To party two:**

Please repeat after me:

**\_\_\_\_\_ I give you this ring,  
as a symbol of my love, affection, and respect,  
now and always.**

**If only one ring:**

Please repeat after me:

**\_\_\_\_\_, I accept and wear this ring  
as a symbol of my love, affection, and respect,  
now and always.**

**To the couple:**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, you have both now made the declarations required by law, and you have made solemn promises to one another in the presence of your family and friends gathered here today.

This day will form a milestone in your lives. You will look back upon it with love and happiness, and as the start of a new phase in your life together. We hope that the feelings of love that you have for each other will deepen and grow ever stronger throughout the years to come.

It now gives me great pleasure to declare that you are husband / wife and wife / husband.

Congratulations, you may now kiss your bride / groom.

**A family member or friend may now read poetry or prose.**

Now everyone, please be seated while the register is completed. As you have witnessed a civil marriage is a brief, simple ceremony but you are legally and solemnly joined together in matrimony and I would like to be the first to congratulate you both.