

# A Guide to Planning Your Wedding



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# Your Wedding

## **What does my service include?**

- ❖ Initial interview in your home or at a mutually convenient location.
- ❖ Telephone and email communications as necessary.
- ❖ Creation of fully personalized, unique and distinctive ceremony.
- ❖ Rehearsal.
- ❖ Solemnization of your marriage ceremony.
- ❖ Preparation of legal documentation.
- ❖ Lodgement of legal documentation.
- ❖ PA system if required.
- ❖ I welcome discussions about music, symbolism, rituals and any other requests for the ceremony to make it.....your ceremony.
- ❖ My promise that I will do my utmost to make your day as stress free as possible.

## **Confirmation of Booking and payment details.**

The ceremony date and time will be confirmed and secured by return of the booking fee of \$150.00.

The balance of \$300 is to be paid at least one week prior to the ceremony

(I suggest at the Wedding Rehearsal).

The ceremony will not take place unless all fees have been paid.

In the event that the ceremony is cancelled by you, the deposit is non-refundable. Should either of you cancel the ceremony within 30 days of the scheduled ceremony date, having paid the balance, no refunds will be paid.

## **Conditions.**

- Should you wish to alter the time and date of your ceremony please contact me as soon as possible for confirmation of my availability.
- The Ceremony must start close to the scheduled time.
- Please note that the couple is liable for and indemnifies the Celebrant against liability or loss arising from, and cost incurred due to, the couple not being ready at the venue within half an hour of the designated commencement time.
- Approval from Local Authorities for use of Public Park or space is the responsibility of the intending parties. The Celebrant must be given a copy of such approval.

*As an Authorised Marriage Celebrant it is my pleasure to create a personal and memorable ceremony, one that reflects your individual personalities, in a warm, relaxed and sincere atmosphere. Please let me know if there is any aspect of your Ceremony that I can help you with.*

*Andrea*

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## **RELATIONSHIP COUNSELLING**

Relationship Counselling Services will help to nurture and sustain your relationship. I have attached details of some services available in the local community.

**Linett Hilsberg**, High St Boonah, Phone 54 632 000

**Relationships Australia**, 64 Tina Street Beaudesert 4285, Phone 1300 364 277

**Relationships Australia**, Cnr South and Nicholas streets Ipswich 4305. Phone 1300 364 277

**Lifeline** 20 Roderick St Ipswich 4305, Phone 3281 8688 (Also come to Boonah)

**Kinections**, 41 East St Ipswich 4305, Phone 3810 4802

**Ipswich Counselling Service**, 19 Dudleigh St Booval 4304, Phone 3282 0059

**Susy Hall**, BA Psychology, Dip Counselling, Clinical Hypnosis, Shop 4 and 5/115 Brisbane Street, Beaudesert. Phone: 55414585

**Illoura Child and Family Counselling Centre**, 31 Duckett Street, Beaudesert. Phone 55411955.

If you have any concerns regarding my services please let me know so that I may rectify the situation. You are also welcome to contact the Attorney-General's Department, Robert Garran Offices, National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600. Telephone 02 62506666. [www.ag.gov.au](http://www.ag.gov.au)

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## **Your Wedding.**

The marriage ceremony is the centre of your wedding and the most important part of your wedding day because

- ❖ It is when your promises (vows) are made.
- ❖ It is when the legal contract is completed
- ❖ It is when you stand before your family and friends to declare your love for and commitment to each other.

## **What is a Ceremony?**

A marriage ceremony is a religious or civil legal ceremony, specially created to match the needs of the couple being married.

A wedding ceremony can be very formal or informal, but most importantly it should reflect the personalities and choices of the couple being married.

A well designed wedding ceremony should be personal and intimate with a clear structure. The ceremony should flow effortlessly, and maintain the interest of participants and guests. Everyone present should feel part of this special event.

At the completion of the marriage ceremony you, two witnesses and the Marriage Celebrant, will be required to sign the Marriage Register and Marriage Certificates. You will be presented with your Marriage Certificate.

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## **WEDDING CEREMONY STRUCTURE**

*Introduction*

*Reading - Optional*

*Marriage Act - Legal Statement*

*Giving Away of Bride - Optional*

*The Asking - Traditional question*

*Vows - Legal Statement*

*Ring Ceremony*

*Reading - Optional*

*Declaration of Marriage*

*Signing of Register and Certificate*

*Presentation of Certificate*

*Presentation to Family and Friends*

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## **ORDER OF SERVICE**

The Ceremony can be divided into the following sections and can appear in any order. Some can be added or removed to suit your tastes. Some parts are essential and are marked with an asterisk (\*). Otherwise this list is just a suggestion. Please use it as a guide to give you an idea of how the ceremony can be built. I have attached a list of web sites which may also help you design your own special ceremony.

This is *your* ceremony and it should be reflective of the two of you, so please feel free to make any changes as you wish.

- ❖ Pre-Ceremonial Music
- ❖ Request to silence mobile phones and pagers
- ❖ Entrance Music
- ❖ Entrance
- ❖ Introduction and Welcome
- ❖ Acknowledgement of Aboriginal Custodians of the land
- ❖ Acknowledgement of absent or deceased family members and friends
- ❖ Reason for ceremony
- ❖ Brief history and highlights of your life together
- ❖ Extracts/ passages/ poems/ songs
- ❖ Statement of consent to marry/hopes for the future
- ❖ Interactive symbols e.g. Blessing of the wedding rings; lighting of family candles; combining of water wine sand or tea; exchange of roses; giving away to family members or friends.
- ❖ Rite of marriage and legal information (\*)
- ❖ Vows(\*)
- ❖ Exchange of rings/ gifts
- ❖ Signing of register and certificate(\*)
- ❖ Declaration
- ❖ Presentation to guests
- ❖ Music
- ❖ Photos

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## ***A Few Wedding Planning Web Sites to Inspire You.***

- ❖ [www.weddingplanningwiz.com](http://www.weddingplanningwiz.com)
- ❖ [www.weddingchannel.com](http://www.weddingchannel.com)
- ❖ [www.brilliantweddingpages.com/](http://www.brilliantweddingpages.com/)
- ❖ [www.pocket-poet.com](http://www.pocket-poet.com)
- ❖ [www.brideonline.com.au](http://www.brideonline.com.au)
- ❖ [www.bkweddings.com](http://www.bkweddings.com)

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## Some Sample Readings.

### From Kahil Gibran's "The Prophet"

"Love one another, but make not a bond of that love.  
Let it rather be like a moving sea between the shores of your  
souls. And stand together, and yet not too near together.  
For even the pillars of the temple must stand apart; and the oak tree and the cypress will not grow  
in each other's shadow.  
Remember that love gives nothing but from itself.  
Love possesses not, nor would it be possessed, for love is sufficient unto  
love. And think not that you can direct the course of love.  
For love, if it finds you worthy, will direct your course."

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### Apache Blessing

Now you will feel no rain, for each of you will be the shelter for each  
other. Now you will feel no cold, for each of you will be the warmth for  
the other. Now you are two persons, but there is only one life before.  
Go now to your dwelling place to enter into the days of your life  
together. And may your days be good and long upon the earth.

Treat yourselves and each other with respect, and remind yourselves often of what brought  
you together.

Give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness and kindness that your connection deserves.

When frustration, difficulty and fear assail your relationship - as they threaten all relationships at  
one time or another - remember to focus on what is right between you, not only the part which  
seems wrong.

In this way, you can ride out the storms when clouds hide the face of the sun in your lives  
remembering that even if you lose sight of it for a moment, the sun is still there.

And if each of you takes responsibility for the quality of your life together, it will be marked  
by abundance and delight.

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### 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude.  
Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;  
it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right.  
Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.  
Love never ends.

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## **Cherokee Prayer**

God in heaven above please protect the ones we love.  
We honour all you created as we pledge our hearts and lives together.  
We honour mother-earth and ask for our marriage to be abundant and grow stronger through the seasons;  
We honour fire  
-and ask we sail through life safe and calm as in our father's arms;  
We honour water  
-to clean and soothe our relationship  
-that it may never thirst for love;  
With all the forces of the universe that you created,  
We pray for harmony and true happiness as we forever grow young together. Amen.

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## **From Walt Whitman's "Will You Give Me Yourself?"**

I give you my love, more precious than money; I give you myself before preaching or law.  
Will you give me yourself? Will you come travel with me?  
Shall we stick by each other as long as we live?

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## **Traditional Irish Blessing**

May the road rise to meet you, May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face, The rains fall soft upon your fields  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.  
May God be with you and bless you:  
May you see your children's children.  
May you be poor in misfortune, rich in blessings.  
May you know nothing but happiness from this day forward.  
May the road rise up to meet you, May the wind be always at your back.  
May the warm rays of sun fall upon your home.  
And may the hand of a friend always be near.  
May green be the grass you walk on, May blue be the skies above you,  
May pure be the joys that surround you, May true be the hearts that love you.

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## Some Sample Vows

Do you( Bridegroom's name) take (Bride's name ) to be your wife  
To be her constant friend, her partner in life, her true love  
To love without reservation honour and respect her  
To protect her from harm  
Comfort her in times of distress  
And to grow with her in mind and spirit **Bridegroom Yes I do**

Do you( Bride name ) take (Bridegrooms name ) to be your husband  
To be her constant friend, his partner in life, his true love  
To love without reservation honour and respect him  
To protect him from harm  
Comfort him in times of distress  
And to grow with him in mind and spirit **Bride Yes I do**

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I \_\_\_\_\_ choose you \_\_\_\_\_ as my best friend for life

I \_\_\_\_\_ choose you \_\_\_\_\_ to embark upon this great journey of marriage with me

I \_\_\_\_\_ take you \_\_\_\_\_ as my soul mate and companion

I \_\_\_\_\_ will take you \_\_\_\_\_ to be my wife/husband my partner, my friend, my confidant, my soul mate

I \_\_\_\_\_ take \_\_\_\_\_ to be my lawfully wedded wife/husband

To have to hold  
To love and cherish in sickness and in health  
In prosperity and adversity  
Forsaking all others  
So long as we both shall live

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\_\_\_\_\_ take you \_\_\_\_\_ as my friend and love, beside me and apart from me, in laughter and in tears, in conflict and tranquillity, asking that you be no other than yourself, loving what I know of you, trusting what I do not know yet, in all the ways that life may find us

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From this moment I take you \_\_\_\_\_ as my best friend for life. I pledge to honour, encourage and support you through our walk together. When our way becomes difficult I promise to stand by you and uplift you. So that through our union we can accomplish more than we could alone. I promise to work at our love and always make you a priority in my life. With every beat of my heart I will love you. **This is my solemn vow.**

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I \_\_\_\_\_ take you \_\_\_\_\_ as my best friend for life. I am so in love with you that I want to promise to stand beside you through thick and thin, through good and bad, through joy and sorrow.

I want to spend the rest of my life hearing your thoughts and seeing your dreams. I promise to do my best to make our lives better and better from this day on. **This is my solemn vow.**

Do you \_\_\_\_\_ take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your wife  
To be her constant friend  
Her partner in life and her true love  
To love her without reservation, honour and respect her  
Protect her from harm  
Comfort her in times of distress  
And Grow with her in mind and spirit **I do**

Do you \_\_\_\_\_ take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your husband  
To be her constant friend  
Her partner in life and her true love  
To love her without reservation, honour and respect her  
Protect her from harm  
Comfort her in times of distress  
And Grow with her in mind and spirit **I do**

I love you, (Name), and I thank the Lord for the love that has bound our hearts and lives together in spiritual fellowship of marriage. I will love, honour, and cherish you always. As we enter upon the privileges and joys of life's most holy relationship, and begin together the great adventure of life, I will love you in sickness as in health, in poverty as in wealth, in sorrow as in joy, and will be true to you, so long as we both shall live.

Before God our Father, Who has given us the gift of love, I (Name), join with you, (Name), in the covenant of marriage. I promise to give my faithful, life-giving love to you, and to share my life with you, as long as we shall live. May this community of faith witness our love for each other for the rest of our lives.

I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have. I honour you, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

I offer you my love and my support throughout all of our lives. I commit myself to years of growth and sharing as I encourage you to move in new direction. I will strive to achieve my potential as God's creature and will celebrate your progress toward the same goal. I give myself as I am and as I will be, and I do it for all of life.

Respecting each other, we commit to live our lives together for all the days to come. I ask you to share this world with me, for good and ill. Be my partner, and I will be yours.  
May our days be long, and may they be seasoned with love, understanding, and respect.

Now we stand together; may it always be so. I offer myself to you today. I will always love you, respect you and be faithful to you. Come health, happiness, and prosperity, I will stand with you; come illness, trouble, or poverty, I will stand with you. Take this ring, as a sign of my love and commitment.

Today I join my life to yours as your friend, your lover, and your confidant. Let me be the shoulder you lean on, the rock on which you rest, the companion of your life. With you I will walk my path from this day forward.

I came here today to join my life to yours before this company. In their presence I pledge to be true to you, to respect you, and to grow with you through the years. Time may pass, fortune may smile, trials may come; no matter what we may encounter together, I vow here that this love will be my only love. I will make my home in your heart from this day forward.

## **Jewish Vows**

Do you, (Name), take (Name), to be your (husband/wife)? ("I do."). Do you promise to love, cherish and protect (him/her), whether in good fortune or in adversity, and to seek with (him/her) a life hallowed by the faith of Israel? ("I do. ")

(Name), as you place this ring upon the finger of (Name), speak to (him/her) these vows: "With this ring be thou consecrated unto me as my (husband/wife), according to the law of God, and the faith of Israel.

## **Buddhist Vows**

(Name), in the future, happy occasions will come as surely as the morning. Difficult times will come as surely as the night. When things go joyously, meditate according to the Buddhist tradition. When things go badly, meditate. Meditation in the manner of the Compassionate Buddha will guide your life. To say the words "love and compassion" is easy. But to accept that love and compassion are built upon patience and perseverance is not easy.

## **Muslim Vows**

I, (Name), take you, (Name), to be my (husband/wife). I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honour you all the days of my life. Bride: I pledge, in honesty and sincerity, to be for you an obedient and faithful wife. Groom: I pledge, in honesty and sincerity, to be for you an obedient and faithful husband.

## **Intercultural Wedding Vows**

(Name), Our love has opened windows to the worlds we lived in as children. I have found profound respect for your heritage; but I am not part of it. We have vowed to live our adult lives together. Our marriage will be a new creation. Now I promise to build bridges of understanding, and share the best of myself with your family, your friends, and you.

(Name), with these rings we unite our hearts in tenderness and devotion. We will honour each other's cultures as we join customs to form a trusting relationship. We will protect, support, and encourage each other through life's joys and sorrows as we create a loving future. We promise to establish a home for ourselves and our children shaped by our respective heritages; a loving environment dedicated to peace, hope, and respect for all people. From this day forward our lives will be intertwined forever, blessed in faith, filled with compassion, understanding and love.

## **Contemporary Romantic Wedding Vows**

(Name), I take you to be my lawfully wedded (husband/wife). Before these witnesses I vow to love you and care for you as long as we both shall live. I take you, with all your faults and strengths, as I offer myself to you with all my faults and strengths. I will help you when you need help, and turn to you when I need help. I choose you as the person with whom I will spend my life.

I love you, (Name). You are my best friend. Today I give myself to you in marriage. I promise to encourage and inspire you, to laugh with you, and to comfort you in times of sorrow and struggle. I promise to love you in good times and in bad, when life seems easy and when it seems hard, when our love is simple, and when it is an effort. I promise to cherish you, and to always hold you in highest regard. These things I give to you today, and all the days of our life.

(Name), we pledge to each other to be loving friends and partners in marriage. To talk and to listen, to trust and appreciate one another; to respect and cherish each other's uniqueness; and to support, comfort, and strengthen each other through life's joys and sorrows. We promise to share hopes, thoughts, and dreams as we build our lives together. May our lives be ever intertwined, our love keeping us together. We will build a home that is compassionate to all, full of respect and honour for others and each other. May our home be forever filled with peace, happiness, and love.

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There are as many vows to be spoken and written as there are lovers who love. Use the samples here as they are or to help you write your own if you wish.

Below is a list of words which may help you build your own unique vows.

Let your hearts guide you.

VERBS	NOUNS	ADJECTIVES
Endure	Teacher	Dearest
Honour	Friend	Priceless
Challenge	Partner	Lovliest
Laugh	Accomplice	True
Cry	Soul mate	New
Respect	Beloved	Unknown
Cherish	Best friend	Happy
Nurture	Growth	Long
Stand	Freedom	Eternal
Love	Spirit	Joyful
Adore	Reverence	Enduring
Learn	Faith	Everlasting
Support	Beauty	Hopeful
Uplift	Peace	
Encourage	Understanding	ADVERBS
Join	Joy	Affectionately
Accept	Eternity	Sincerely
Give	Permanent	Divinely
Offer	Trust	Totally
Strive	Integrity	Only
Work	Guide	Only
Embrace	Partnership	Completely
Experience	Forever	Loyalty
Promise	Lover	Eternally
Share	Strength	Joyfully

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## **THE RING EXCHANGE**

The fitting of this ring with its unending circle symbolizes my everlasting  
Love for you.....

The placing of this ring on your finger is the fulfilment of my dreams.

To have you as my friend, my love, husband/wife

To live as one for ever.

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I promise to love, respect and honour you I will always be there for you, beside  
you

Let this ring be a symbol of our love

May it represent our todays, our tomorrows, our future, our past.

As I have given you my hands to hold, so I give you my life to keep.

---

With this ring I pledge my love for you

May it ever remind you of the love that I have for you.

---

This ring is the symbol of our love, complete and never ending.

It warms to your touch as I do.

Like our love, its gold is precious but malleable; it will bend a little and stretch a  
little, as needs be.

We will be considerate and thoughtful of each other and of our love because like a  
gold ring, it will be stressed if it is handled thoughtlessly.

I give you my love - like this ring it is eternal.

I will care for you with all my heart and ensure our love never breaks.

This ring is my pledge to you.

*Please let me know if there is anything I can do to make your day as  
relevant and special for you both.*

*Andrea*