



Adrian Downey

NSW Celebrant

## *Accepting Children from a Former Marriage*

### *Welcoming them into the Current Union*

**Explanation:** This ceremony is appropriate when children are young. Within the wedding ceremony the acceptance of children can take place immediately before or after the couple have exchanged their marriage vows.

The children themselves will either be standing with the couple throughout the wedding ceremony, or with the guests close by.

In the case of children who belong to both partners, the couple can make a special commitment vow or follow their vow with a special poem dedicated to the child.

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#### *No. 1*

**Celebrant:** (Partner), do you promise to actively promote the happiness and well being of (Children), providing them with a home where they are nurtured in love and stability?

**Partner:** I do.

#### *No. 2*

**Celebrant:** (Partner), in joining your life with (Partner), you are accepting the added responsibility for (Partner's children).

(Partner) here before your (Partner) and your relatives and friends, do you promise to care for (Partner's children), make for them a home where they can grow in peace and love, and at all times have their best interest at heart?

**Partner:** I do.

#### *No. 3*

**Partner:** (Partner), I promise to love your children, to help care for them, and to give them the best possible example.

#### *No. 4*

**Partner:** (Partner), I promise to love your child/children, and care for them, as if they were my own.

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### *No. 5*

Celebrant: This ceremony not only involves (Groom) and (Bride), but also (Partner's children). (Partner) is taking this opportunity to affirm his/her commitment to the welfare and happiness of the (Children).

Partner: I promise to be at all times sensitive to the needs of the (Children), creating for them a loving and caring home environment.

### *No. 6*

G/B: Today I commit myself to you, and to our son/daughter.

### *No. 7*

G/B: I, (G/B) choose you, (B/G) and Child, to be my family. I promise to honour & respect you, and to provide for you to the best of my ability.

I promise to make our home a haven, where trust, love, and laughter are abundant. I make these promises lovingly, and freely, and vow to honour them all the days of my life.

### *No. 8*

Celebrant: (Groom) and (Bride), in joining your lives together, you also accept the responsibility of your Child who make up your family. Do you promise to give them a peaceful and loving family home, to continue to care for them, and at all times to have their best interest at heart?

### *No. 9*

Partner: (Child's Name), I promise to accept and love you as my own child(ren) and to protect and love you all of my life. I promise to do my best to guide and support you - and to respect you enough to allow you to see the world through your own eyes.

### *No. 10*

Celebrant: Not only are (Groom) and (Bride) creating a marriage today, but they also are forming a family with (child/children's name). Just as it is appropriate for (Groom) and (Bride) to declare their love for each other in the gift of a rose, they also

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wish to show you, (the children) how much they love you with the gift of a rose."

### *No. 11* Step Parents and Step Children

Celebrant: As (Groom) and (Bride) exchange their wedding vows, we realize that this isn't the only relationship being established today. There is a whole network of relationships set up by this marriage, as there is in any marriage.

Perhaps the most important relationship being established now is that between (Groom's) children (children's names) and (Bride's) children (children's names).

Step relationships are often difficult for all sorts of reasons. But with the right attitude they can be both helpful and productive.

So, today, I ask (Groom), will do you your best to assist (Bride's) children (children's names) in whatever way you can during these important years of growth?

Will you respect their relationship with their parents, yet be aware of your important place in their lives, and treat them with care, concern, fairness and respect?

Groom: I will.

Celebrant: (Children of the Bride), now that your family includes (Groom) as a parent to you, will you treat him with respect and fairness, and do your best to maintain a friendly and happy relationship with him?

B's children: I will.

Celebrant: Now I ask, you, (Bride), will do you do your best to assist (Groom's) children (children's names) in whatever way you can during these important years of growth?

Will you respect their relationship with their parents, yet be aware of your important place in their lives, and treat them with care, concern, fairness and respect?

Bride: I will.

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Celebrant: (Children of the Groom), now that your family includes (Bride) as a parent to you, will you treat her with respect and fairness, and do your best to maintain a friendly and happy relationship with her?

G's children: I will.

### *No. 12*

Groom: (Bride) I promise to be a good and faithful husband to you, and also a patient, loving father to (children's names), caring for them and providing for them as my own.

I promise to be their strength and their emotional support, loving them with all my heart forever.

Bride: (Groom) I promise to be a good and faithful wife to you, and also a patient, loving mother to (children's names), caring for them and providing for them as my own.

I promise to be their strength and their emotional support, loving them with all my heart forever.

Celebrant: (children), do you promise to love and respect your parent's new husband/wife? Do you promise to support their marriage and new family?

Do you promise to accept the responsibility of being their children, and to encourage them and support them in your new life together?

Children: I do.

### *No. 13*

Groom: I love you (Bride) and I love (our/your) children (children's names) as my very own. Today as we become husband and wife, we also will become a true family. I promise to be faithful to you, and a loving father to our children, and I will be there for you and for the children always.

No matter what circumstances life brings our way, with God's love and help, we will face them together as a family. I commit myself to all of you from this day forward and forevermore.

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Bride: I love you (Groom) and I love (Children) as my very own. Today, as we become husband and wife, we also will become a family and begin a new life together.

I promise to be your faithful wife and loving mother to our children. I promise I will be there for you and for the children always. I commit myself to all of you from this day forward and forevermore.

*No. 14*

Groom: I have pledged my love to you and promised to be a faithful husband. Now I want to add another, different kind of vow. I promise to love (Children) for all of our days and to treat them as if they were my own.

I gladly accept the obligations that go along with this pledge. I love (Children) and want them to be part of my life.

Bride: I have pledged my love to you and promised to be a faithful wife. Now I want to add another, different kind of vow. I promise to love (Children) for all of our days and to treat them as if they were my own.

I gladly accept the obligations that go along with this pledge. I love (Children) and want them to be part of my life.