

Sample Ceremony 1.

Celebrant:

Friends and family of _____ & _____ welcome. _____ and _____, we have come as friends and family to be with you as you commit yourselves to each other. We have come because we want to support you, and wish you every happiness in the future. We come with our love, friendship and support and this is the greatest gift we can give you.

_____ and _____ are making this commitment to each other because they believe that their relationship is about committed caring and giving. They are continuing to learn to share their lives with each other. Their relationship involves being prepared to face together whatever adversity may arise from day-to-day living, it is enjoying all the good times that will be spent together.

Together you will share your desires, longings, dreams and memories and help each other through your uncertainties. Such a relationship demands patience, tolerance, a sense of humour and above all, continual recommitment to each other.

Here amidst their friends and relatives, _____ and _____ wish to pledge their love for each other and their desire to spend their lives together. They wish to share within the joy of their relationship a deeper understanding of love and what it means.

This commitment you make to each other bears witness to a relationship so close and intimate that it will profoundly influence your whole future, unknown in its failures, its pleasures and its pains, its joys and its sorrows.

Realising the full importance of these words, it is a tribute to your faith in each other that you are willing to embark on such a future together.

Love is not easy but no greater blessing can come to your lives. So may this love which joins your hands and hearts today, grow deeper and stronger as the years go on.

_____ & _____:

I give this ring as a sign and symbol of my love.

Celebrant:

_____ & _____, in this commitment you have made special promises to each other, and have symbolised them by joining hands and giving rings;

I therefore pronounce you partners together in life's journey.

May you treasure this trust and responsibility and live full and rich lives together.

The celebrant gives a short talk about things to watch out for in their life together.

Blessing:

We are grateful for friends and relatives whose care and love have helped _____ & _____ through the past; whose patience and concern have been a constant source of strength and hope. These friends and relatives, many gathered here today, are cause for joy and thanks.

Our hope now, is for _____ & _____, that they may continue to grow in love and mature as individuals.

May all they undertake together be tempered by respect, understanding and acceptance of each other.

Let their lives be a blessing, a sign of love in this world, so that unity may overcome estrangement, forgiveness heal guilt, and joy conquer despair. May their love strengthen them, so that they are enabled to reach out in concern to others,

Let _____ and _____ be to each other strength in times of need, counsel in times of confusion, comfort in times of pain, and companion in times of joy.

Departure:

Let us spend a little time in silence thinking of _____ and _____ as they go forth to their life together.

(silence)

We extend to you our interest and our good wishes, our friendship and our love in the promises you have made to each other.

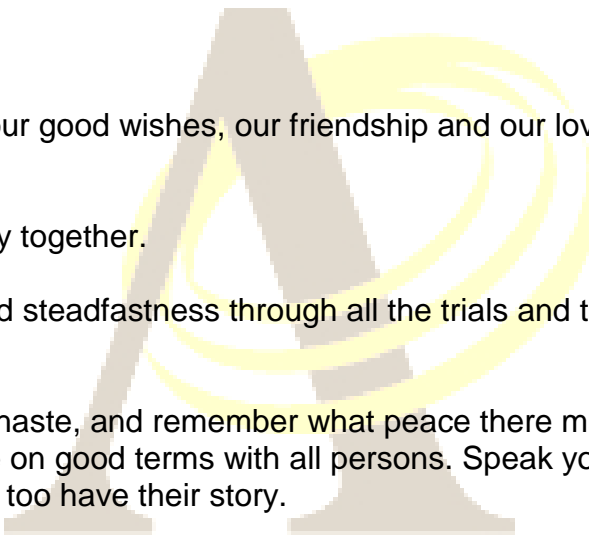
May you have long life and every joy together.

May you live long together in joy and steadfastness through all the trials and triumphs that life has to offer you.

Go placidly amid the noise and the haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others . . . they too have their story.

Be yourself, nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune and keep peace with your soul.

Go in peace; as one and may your unity last through all your life together.



Adrian Downey
NSW Celebrant

COMMITMENT CEREMONY 2

Introduction

Good afternoon my name is Adrian Downey and I am a civil celebrant and very pleased to have been asked to conduct this ceremony today. I welcome you here today to bear witness with me to the life long partnership of Trudy and Jane . We are here not only to witness their commitment to each other, but also to wish them well and every happiness in their life together. Trudy and Jane acknowledge the special relationship that they share. They have found it easy to be honest and open with each other, and comfortable with their family and friends; and for that they would like to thank you. It is their wish today to declare their love and partnership before you all. It is a statement of a mutual relationship and commitment to each other. Trudy and Jane want to honour their relationship with the significance of a ritual and today we will dedicate an afternoon not only to Trudy and Jane but to the family they have created who are with us today.

I am obliged to clearly indicate to you all that this ceremony does not represent a legal marriage, but however it does represent a moral one. A commitment such as yours involves the voluntary and full commitment of the two of you. It is made in the deepest sense to the exclusion of all others, and, it is entered into with the desire, the hope, and the firm intention that it will last for life.

Reading by Adrian

When two people join together
and bond their lives forever
because they are certain they have something special that will make their commitment last
this is the first act of faith.

Upon this act of faith these two people will build a life.
and as long as their determination stays with them
this life will always be their hope, their dreams, their truth, their being, their inspiration,
and their source of strength.

Through their life together, they will hurt and laugh.
Together they will feel all of life's up and downs.
They will learn and grow through trial and error.
The lessons will show them the meaning of true love
And the difference between a love that lasts
and one that just gives up.
These two people will face each failure together and

discover the strength to go on.

They will encourage each other's dreams and forgive each other's faults.

Through a labour of love.

these two will become as one,

fighting against the odds and ultimately creating

a commitment that will grow into an infinite love.

Regina Hill.

THE ASKING

Jane , will you take Trudy to be your life long partner. Will you love and respect her, be honest with her and stand by her, through whatever life may hold so you can genuinely share your life together?

(I will)

Trudy, will you take Jane to be your life long partner. Will you love and respect her, be honest with her and stand by her, through whatever life may hold so you can genuinely share your life together?

(I will)

VOWS

Jane , I want to be with you always just as you are. I choose you above all others to share my life with me. I love you for yourself and I want you to become all that you can be.

Trudy, I want to be with you always just as you are. I choose you above all others to share my life with me. I love you for yourself and I want you to become all that you can be.

RINGS

Jane

Trudy accept this ring with my love. Take it and wear it as a symbol of all we share today and always. I love you without exception or reward. I love you because you are you and not in spite of it.

Trudy

Jane accept this ring with my love. Take it and wear it as a symbol of all we share today and always. I love you without exception or reward. I love you because you are you and not in spite of it.

Adrian

From the words of Richard Bach I'd like to quote a few lines from his book titled 'One'.

'An easy life doesn't teach us anything. In the end it's the learning that matters: what we've learned and how we've grown.

We can have excuses, or we can have health, love, longevity, understanding, adventure, money, happiness. We design our lives through the power of our choices.

We are each given a block of marble when we begin a lifetime, and the tools to shape it into sculpture... We can drag it behind us untouched, we can pound it into gravel, or we can shape it into glory.

We generate our own environment.

And from illusions

The bond that links your true family is not one of blood, but of respect and joy in each other's life.

These are profound words and in the case of Trudy and Jane who are both people who choose not always to take the easy option, but together they are sculpturing a relationship that they are both proud of, they are both committed to the growth of their family unit and committed to the relationship.

DECLARATION

Our hearts are filled with great happiness on Jane and Trudy's special day as they pledge their hearts and love to one another. Grant it that they may ever be true and loving, living their lives in such a way as to never bring shame or heartbreak into their relationship. Temper their hearts with kindness and understanding, rid them of all pretence or jealousy. Help them to remember to be each other's sweethearts, help mates, best friend and guide, so that together they may meet the cares and problems of life more bravely. And with passage of time, may they find great contentment in the rich joy of senior companionship.

May their lives be full of love and harmony, where good spirit is always present. I think generally wanting a relationship to stay strong you must be committed to staying true to yourself, committed to accepting yourself as is, committed to standing up for what you believe in. Committed to expressing your essential nature so that with your partner all of you comes shining through. Commitments lead us to the place where we can stop, look around, and say I'm home.

Today is a celebration of your relationship. Everyone here wishes you continued happiness and we all hope that life will continue to hold the very best of everything for you.

By having this ceremony here today I hope it will in some way increase your capacity to live your life to the fullest. Congratulations to you both.



Adrian Downey
NSW Celebrant