

# *The Naming of .....*

*Date: 14.02.2021*



## **Introduction**

Good afternoon everyone, my name is Adrian Downey and I would like to welcome you all to the naming ceremony of A, the child of B and C. You have all met here today to take part together, in a simple ceremony to celebrate the life of this precious little one and to welcome them into our community.

As one unit, you celebrate your combined joy for the gift of their life, and the acceptance of them into their family, be it immediate or extended, and the acceptance among friends and beyond into the wide world. We celebrate your presence here, as we celebrate those who are no longer with us.

This ceremony will remind B and C that for their lives leading up to now, and for their future, they will be dedicated to caring for their little ones, guiding their development and nurturing their growth as they blossom into amazing people. They wish for you to share in their joy and future on this joyous day, just as they wish for your continued support and love.

The more love and support this child receives, the more they will benefit from life, and the more love in turn they will give to those around them. Similarly, the more people to whom these beloved children relate, the more balanced and fulfilled their life will be. Consequently, your presence at this ceremony is invaluable, as will be your involvement and encouragement in the years ahead.

We reflect on the potential of this child, and the endless opportunities that await them, with this exert by Bryce Courtenay:

“Nature formed you with perfect feet and hands and a heart that beats non-stop, sometimes for a hundred years. You were made complete.

You have inherited a thousand years of wisdom, skill, poetry, song, all the sunrises and sunsets of knowledge past. You are the sum of all the people who went before you.

You are a refinery of all inherited intellectual wealth, the full flood of antecedent wisdom is piped and stored within you – how to climb the highest mountain, slay the biggest monster, how to survive fear and how to summon your own courage and take pride in your wonderful intelligence. Inside you can dream it, you can do it, because the instinctive knowledge of how to succeed is already programmed within you waiting to be turned on, it is waiting to flow like a river as you come on stream.”

### **Acknowledgement of Grandparents**

It is not always possible for grandparents to involve themselves in the lives of their grandchildren, but when they do it is a beautiful blessing to all three generations. The important role played by grandparents is the passing on of cultural and moral values to their grandchildren. This role helps them to find identity and security, which aids in their integration into society.

The special relationship of trust which develops between children and their grandparents is something very unique and special. Through this relationship children learn their lineage, family history along with many core values and development skills.

For these reasons, B and C wish to recognise and express their gratitude to their parents, for their role in grandchildren's lives. They want to show their love and appreciation for D and E, who are here with us today, as well as F and G who are unable to make it but are here in spirit.

### **Affirmation by Godparents**

An important tradition on these occasions is the responsibility accepted by godparents. They undertake a lifelong commitment to the welfare of their godchildren, and assume a special responsibility in the event the parents are no longer able to look after the children. Their commitment binds them to the family and forms a special bond between them and the godchildren.

I now ask the godparents: Are you – (Godparents names), willing to accept this important responsibility?

Godparents: We are.

(Godparents names), will you:  
Stay close to these children?

To the best of your ability, will you guide them through life so that they may know the best way you know?

Will you touch them with your wisdom?

Will you try and be a good influence by your own way of living, and encourage them to observe worthy principles of living, and decent treatment of their fellow-human beings and their world?

Godparents: We will

## Naming Ceremony

B and C, what name have you chosen for your child?

Parents: A.....

We all agree to call you by this name, so therefore we name you A. We wish you long life and happiness, in a loving and peaceful world. May you bring joy to your Parents, your Godparents, your Grandparents and to all of us – your family and friends.

May you be one who makes this world a better and happier place.

Your parents chose this name with love and they give it to you with love. They give you this name to you to accompany you throughout your life with all the qualities of strength and goodness your names imply.

Can include a brief meaning of the name chosen and perhaps reason for selecting the name?

We acknowledge you and appreciate all you are and what you will bring to the world.

I now invite TBC to read a blessing to honour these children,

### Reading - TBC

*“We give you the greatest gift of all,  
a headstart that will last throughout your life  
We shall do our best to teach you,  
but it will be up to you to learn.  
We shall try to guide you in the right directions,  
but it will be up to you to make the right decisions.*

*We shall also encourage you to seek your own independence,  
but it will be up to you to be responsible.  
We shall tell you about 'drink and drugs',  
but it will be up to you to say 'no'  
We shall teach you about respect,  
but you will choose whether to appreciate it's value.  
We shall encourage you to try,  
but you should want to succeed for yourself.  
We shall teach you kindness,  
but it will be up to you to be good natured.  
We shall teach you to share,  
but it will be up to you to be unselfish.  
We shall model values for you.  
but you have to develop your own morals.  
We give you this knowledge as a gift with all our love.”*

I would now like to share a reading with you.

“A parent's love is something that no one can explain.  
It is made of deep devotion and of sacrifice and pain,  
It is endless and unselfish and enduring come what may,  
For nothing can destroy it or take that love away...

It is patient and forgiving when all others are forsaking,  
It never fails or falters even though the heart is breaking,  
It believes beyond believing when the world around  
condemns

It glows with all the beauty of the rarest, brightest gems  
It is far beyond defying, it defies all explanation,  
It still remains a secret like the mysteries of creation.

A many splendor miracle. Man cannot understand  
And another wondrous evidence of Life's tender guiding  
hand.”

## **Final Declaration**

This ceremony will in no way inhibit this child from seeking the truth during their life and any future commitments to religious or non-religious beliefs. In fact, it is our duty in the coming years to present to them a broad and balanced view of life and encourage them in the virtues we all agree as good – integrity, honesty, concern, fairness and love towards others.

I conclude this ceremony by summarising the thought that has been the theme today. Let us all be aware that our lives are interrelated, that this ceremony will strengthen the affection and the friendship we all have for one another, but especially the relationship now established by each and every one of us with this child.

A, may life's richest joys and blessings be yours. May you grow in health of body and mind to full adulthood, and may it be your good fortune to play some worthy part in making life more pleasant for those whose paths you cross.

Family and friends, I have the honour to present to you – A (full name).

## **Signing of Certificate**

I now invite the parents and godparents to join me as we sign the certificate.

## **Conclusion**

It gives me great pleasure to present the naming certificates to the parents and Godparents of A. Please join me in congratulating B and C, and also our Godparents, (add names). Thank you to everyone for your attendance here today. I now invite you to come forward and congratulate the parents and godparents.