



Township of Uxbridge
CIVIL MARRIAGE CEREMONY #3

This couple has come here today to be joined in marriage, which is the voluntary union of two persons to the exclusion of all others.

Celebrant 1 and **Celebrant 2**, nothing is easier than saying words. Nothing is more difficult than living those words day after day. What you promise today must be renewed and rededicated tomorrow and then again each day that stretches out before you. At the end of this ceremony, legally you will be **husband and wife**, but still you must decide every day that you want to be married.

All who know you know that you are deeply in love. But beyond the warmth and glow, the excitement and romance, what is love really?

Real love is caring about the welfare and happiness of your marriage partner as about your own. Real love is not possessive or jealous; it is liberating; it sets you free to become your best self.

Real love is not total absorption in each other; it is looking outward in the same direction...together. Love makes burdens lighter, because you divide them. It makes joys more intense, because you share them. It makes you stronger, so that you can reach out and become involved with life in ways you dared not risk alone.

In the words of the poet, Helen Steiner Rice, Love is...

“Sharing, and Caring...Giving and forgiving,

Loving and being loved...It is walking hand in hand,
Talking heart to heart, Seeing through each other's eyes,
Laughing together, Weeping together,
And always trusting, and believing, in each other."

Officiant to *Celebrant 2*: Repeat after me, please.

"I do solemnly declare / that I do not know / of any lawful impediment / why I may not be
joined in matrimony / to *Celebrant 1*."

Officiant to *Celebrant 1*: Repeat after me, please.

"I do solemnly declare / that I do not know / of any lawful impediment / why I may not be
joined in matrimony / to *Celebrant 2*."

Officiant to parent(s) of the *Celebrant 1*:

Who gives this [*woman*] to be married to this [*man*]?

Celebrant 1's parent(s) to respond:

"I/We do"

or

Do you, the parents of *Celebrant 1 and Celebrant 2*, give them your blessing this day and
promise to support and honour them in their marriage?

Celebrants' parents to respond:

"Yes, we do"

The Vows

Officiant to *Celebrant 2*: Please repeat after me.

"I call upon these persons here present / to witness that I, *Celebrant 2*, / do take you
Celebrant 1, / to be my lawful wedded [*wife/spouse*]. / To have and to hold, / from this day

forward, / for better, for worse, / for richer, for poorer; / in sickness and in health; / in joy and in sorrow;/ to love and to cherish / and to be faithful to you alone, / as long as we both shall live."

Officiant to Celebrant 1: Please repeat after me.

"I call upon these persons here present / to witness that I, **Celebrant 1**,/ do take you **Celebrant 2**, / to be my lawful wedded **[husband/spouse]**. / To have and to hold, / from this day forward, / for better, for worse, / for richer, for poorer; / in sickness and in health; / in joy and in sorrow;/ to love and to cherish / and to be faithful to you alone, / as long as we both shall live."

The Rings

Officiant: Have you rings for one another?

From time immemorial the ring has been used on important occasions. In ages gone by, the official seal of the empire was worn as a signet on the hand of the reigning monarch and was used to authenticate documents of state. But the golden ring, the most prized of jewels, has reached its loftiest prestige in the symbolic significance which it brings to marriage.

The wedding ring is an object of great beauty. This is true because the ring is made of a precious metal that will not tarnish with the passing of time. Let us be reminded as we look at these rings that at one time they were but crude ore in the depths of the earth. Someone discovered it, mined it, and redefined it.

Master craftsmanship was brought to bear upon it and the result of that effort is these beautiful rings. Today we hope that you, **Celebrant 1**, and you **Celebrant 2**, bring to your marriage the raw materials of unselfishness, love, truthfulness, honesty, kindness and courtesy. Combine these materials together with master craftsmanship and continued effort and you will discover that even as there is no end to the ring, there will be no end to the happiness and to the joy which you can experience together as **husband and wife**. Place your own private, personal welfare on a lower rung of the ladder and you will

discover that as the ring does not tarnish, so your relationship as **husband and wife** will be more beautiful and more precious with the passing of every year.

As a permanent reminder of the vows which you have made and entered into on this day, you will now give and receive these rings as a solemn seal to be known by all.

Officiant to **Celebrant 2**: Placing the ring on the third finger of **Celebrant 1's** left hand, please repeat after me:

"**Celebrant 1**, I give you this ring / that you may wear it / as a symbol of the vows we have made this day."

Officiant to **Celebrant 1**: Placing the ring on the third finger of **Celebrant 2's** left hand, please repeat after me:

"**Celebrant 2**, I give you this ring / that you may wear it / as a symbol of the vows we have made this day."

The Declaration

Now I, **Officiant**, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the *Marriage Act* do hereby pronounce you, **Celebrant 1 and Celebrant 2**, to be married.

You may kiss each other.