



Township of Uxbridge

CIVIL MARRIAGE CEREMONY #4

Officiant:

We are gathered here today to witness and to celebrate the marriage of **Celebrant 1** and **Celebrant 2**, and to be with them as they pledge themselves to each other. Theirs is a partnership freely chosen and founded on love, friendship, trust and respect. It is a partnership that encourages not only self-expression, understanding and the development of wisdom through the sharing of knowledge, but also an enthusiasm for life and living. It must be done with respect, consideration and a deep and gentle caring for one another.

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 2 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 Audience:

You are the people with whom they want to share their joy as they enter into marriage and they hope that, in the years ahead, your love will be a continuous source of strength for them. Let us celebrate this union of **Celebrant 1** and **Celebrant 2**, and support them and their bond of love.

Officiant to Celebrants:

Celebrant 1 and **Celebrant 2**, you are here today with your families and friends to publicly declare your love for one another. Do you plead to treat each other with kindness, respect and compassion; to listen to each other, and to speak to each other with honesty, always?

Celebrant 1 and **Celebrant 2** each respond "Yes, I do".

Marriage is a way of life that all should revere, and none should lightly undertake.

Celebrant 1 and **Celebrant 2**, you have made known that you wish to marry each other.

Officiant to Celebrant 1: Please repeat after me:

"I, **Celebrant 1**, 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 Celebrant 2: Please repeat after me:

"I, **Celebrant 2**, 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 Celebrants

Your marriage is an act of faith, which must not be entered into lightly, nor must it be based on the vain hope of what the other will do or not do, might become, or not become. It must be based on the firm belief in your individual worth and in that of the other, remembering that the pledge you make today will only remain valid as long as you look upon it as an expression of your devotion and freedom.

Today you are dedicating yourselves to that most fragile of endeavors; a human relationship. The words spoken in this ceremony will not validate your marriage unless your love and commitment to one another are strong enough to sustain it.

Officiant to Celebrant 1:

Celebrant 1, will you have this woman as part of your life? Will you love her, care for her and respect her? Will you promise to cherish her in honesty, tenderness and faithfulness as long as you both shall live?

Celebrant 1 to answer “Yes, I will.”

Officiant to Celebrant 2:

Celebrant 2, will you have this man as part of your life? Will you love him, care for him and respect him? Will you promise to cherish him in honesty, tenderness and faithfulness as long as you both shall live?

Celebrant 2 to answer “Yes, I will.”

The Vows:

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 wife, / to love, cherish and respect. / I promise to share my life openly with you. / I promise also **Celebrant 2**, / to tenderly care for you and encourage you / in the fulfillment of your dreams and your individuality, / throughout the changes in our lives.

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 husband, / to love, cherish and respect. / I promise to share my life openly with you. / I promise also **Celebrant 1**, / to tenderly care for you and encourage you / in the

fulfillment of your dreams and your individuality, / throughout the changes in our lives.

Exchange of Rings:

Officiant: The perfect circle of a ring symbolizes eternity. In the years to come this ring should remind you of the overwhelming joy of this special occasion when you were united in marriage.

Officiant to Celebrant 1:

Please place the ring on the third finger of **Celebrant 2's** hand and repeat after me. **Celebrant 2**, with all my love / I give you this ring, / as an everlasting symbol / of the vows we have made to each other / and as a token of my love for you.

Officiant to Celebrant 2:

Please place the ring on the third finger of **Celebrant 1's** hand and repeat after me. **Celebrant 1**, with all my love / I give you this ring, / as an everlasting symbol / of the vows we have made to each other / and as a token of my love for you.

The Declaration:

Officiant:

Celebrant 1 and **Celebrant 2**, from this day on, may you always communicate openly and honestly with each other and live these days in joy.

May you live in each other's company in peace and trust and may your days be filled with the rewards of all that you have endured to bring you to this place. May you endlessly delight in each other and love and fulfill each other always.

Love is more than a feeling, it's a commitment. It's a commitment to work things out and to resolve issues; to communicate when it's hard to and forgive each other

and start fresh each day. Good marriages take time and effort to build and that is your commitment to each other today.

Celebrant 1 and **Celebrant 2**, you have chosen each other in love and freedom. You have declared your purpose before your families and friends gathered here today and you have made your pledges, one to the other, and, as such, it is my pleasure to declare that I, **Officiant**, of the Township of Uxbridge, 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 now seal your vows with a kiss!