



Wedding Information Kit





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Dear Couples,

Congratulations on your Engagement and thank you for taking the time to contact me. This is such an exciting time for you as you have found that special someone to spend the rest of your life with. I hope that you will find this information kit helpful when planning your most special day ~ your Wedding Day ~

The information in this kit will give you the outline of a typical wedding, including some suggestions of poems/readings, songs, rituals that can be used. However, these are just suggestions to give you an idea to get you thinking what you might like to include in your special ceremony.

Your special day can be formal, traditional, casual or something in-between – the choice is yours. You may choose to include a ritual or not, if you do, I can organise that for you.

Please take you time to read through this information and do not hesitate to contact me via email; sandyfmitchell@gmail.com or phone 0407 211 956; to discuss.

Yours faithfully

Sandra Fay

A Little Bit about Me:

My name is Sandra Fay Mitchell, my business name is Sandra Fay – Celebrant. I have recently registered as a civil celebrant and am embarking on a fabulous new career helping others create beautiful memories.

I have spent many years in the corporate world helping people improve their lives, enjoying their retirement years, and now it is time for me to do what I have wanted do for a few years, be involved in creating others special memories, whether it be weddings, commitments, baby naming, vow





renewal or funerals, my passion and empathy towards your special day is most important to me.

Purpose of Ceremony:

A wedding ceremony's prime function is to provide the bride and groom an opportunity to make promises to each other. Those promises form the basis of their marriage and give the officiating celebrant the right to pronounce them man and wife. So, care should be taken to be certain that the promises, if kept, will make their marriage fulfilling and secure. And the entire ceremony should emphasize and clarify those promises to the friends and family that attend.

There are legalities that have to be included in the ceremony. We will go through these at our first initial meeting.

A Typical Wedding Ceremony Outline:

Housekeeping:

This is done before the bride arrives and will let the guests know any special information; like turning mobile phones to silent, taking photos or not, or posting photos on social media or not. These will be instructions as per the couples wishes. Also, other important information about the days schedule or venue amenities.

Processional (or Bridal March)

This is where the bridesmaids and bride enter the ceremony, (the bridesmaids usually enter first), accompanied by music. A brief welcome to guests, and introduction of the celebrant, and explanation of the day's celebration.



Giving Away

The giving away of one partner to the other can be done in many ways including:



- Giving away of Bride by her father, mother, brother, sister, or other family member or friend
- Giving away of the Bride and Groom by their parents
- Giving away of Bride by both her parents
-

Introduction

Your celebrant will speak a little about your commitment to each other and what marriage means to you. You may have something meaningful and/or significant you would like shared. At this point you may have a story you would like your celebrant to share.

Reading:

Couples often like to use a short reading of poetry, songs or prayers to enhance their ceremony. This is a lovely way to include and family member or friend

Monitum * (Required)

For the marriage to be legal, the celebrant MUST read the Government issued monitum:

“I am duly authorised by law to solemnize marriages according to law.”

“Before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of these witnesses, I am to remind you of the solemn and binding nature of the relationship into which you are now about to enter”

“Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of two people to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life”

The Asking:

This is where the couple get the opportunity to say “I do”. Although not legally required in the ceremony, many couples like to have the asking.



Eg: Do you XXXX present yourself here today to be joined in marriage with XXXX, promising to be faithful and honest with her as long as you both shall live?"

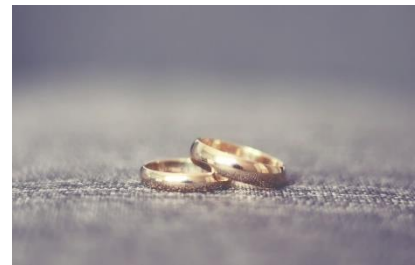
Legal Vows * (Required)

These are the words you MUST say in the presence of your witnesses to solemnise your marriage. Celebrant will ask you "Repeat after me":

"I call upon these persons here present to witness that I, XXXX, take thee, XXXX, to be my lawful wedded wife, (or husband, or spouse)

Personal Vows:

Often couples will choose to write their own vows, these can be added directly to the legal vows.



Ring Exchange:

Ring exchange is a classic tradition in Western Culture and can be added to the vows.

The Pronouncing

This is the part where the celebrant will say *"I now pronounce you husband and wife. You may kiss the bride"* (or something similar)



Signing of the Register * (Required)

The couple and two witnesses must sign the Marriage Register, Certificate of Marriage and the Marriage Certificate. This is a great time to provide some music for your guests, as it often takes 5-10 minutes to finalise everything and get photos.



Rituals:

Some couples may like to add certain rituals at this point of the ceremony.

Conclusion:

A short conclusion is said by the celebrant with acknowledgement of other parties. The celebrant can announce any further details or instructions at this point.

Summing up or Blessing:

This is where your celebrant can say a few words or a blessing to send the you on your way.

Congratulations and Presentation:

Traditionally the couple will be presented to family and friends as "Mr & Mrs XXX" by the celebrant.

Recessional:

The couple leave the ceremony, followed by the bridal party and parents. Great time to play some more music.





Suggested Poems or Readings:

Here is a short list of some well-loved, poems or readings to give you some idea and guidance should you require it:

"To Be One With Each Other" - George Eliot

What greater thing is there for two human souls
than to feel that they are joined together to strengthen
each other in all labor, to minister to each other in all sorrow,
to share with each other in all gladness,
to be one with each other in the
silent unspoken memories?

"To Love Is Not to Possess" - James Kavanaugh

To love is not to possess,
To own or imprison,
Nor to lose one's self in another.
Love is to join and separate,
To walk alone and together,
To find a laughing freedom
That lonely isolation does not permit.
It is finally to be able
To be who we really are
No longer clinging in childish dependency
Nor docilely living separate lives in silence,
It is to be perfectly one's self
And perfectly joined in permanent commitment
To another--and to one's inner self.
Love only endures when it moves like waves,
Receding and returning gently or passionately,
Or moving lovingly like the tide
In the moon's own predictable harmony,



Because finally, despite a child's scars
Or an adult's deepest wounds,
They are openly free to be
Who they really are--and always secretly were,
In the very core of their being
Where true and lasting love can alone abide.

"Sonnet from the Portuguese, XLIII" by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight
For the ends of Being and ideal Grace.
I love thee to the level of every day's
Most quiet need, by sun and candlelight.
I love thee freely, as men strive for Right;
I love thee purely, as they turn from Praise.
I love thee with the passion put to use
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose
With my lost saints, I love thee with the breath,
Smiles, tears, of all my life!—and, if God choose,
I shall but love thee better after death.

"The Passionate Shepherd to His Love" by Christopher Marlowe

[Come live with me](#), and be my love,
And we will all the pleasures prove
That valleys, groves, hills and fields,
Woods, or steepy mountain yields.
And we will sit upon the rocks,
Seeing the shepherds feed their flocks
By shallow rivers, to whose falls
Melodious birds sing madrigals.
And I will make thee beds of roses,
And a thousand fragrant posies,



A cap of flowers, and a kirtle,
Embroidered all with leaves of myrtle.
A gown made of the finest wool
Which from our pretty lambs we pull,
Fair lined slippers for the cold,
With buckles of the purest gold.
A belt of straw and ivy buds,
With coral clasps and amber studs,
And if these pleasures may thee move,
Come live with me, and be my love.
The shepherds' swains shall dance and sing
For thy delight each May-morning;
If these delights thy mind may move,
Then live with me, and be my love.

Wedding Prayer" by Robert Louis Stevenson

Lord, behold our family here assembled.
We thank you for this place in which we dwell,
for the love that unites us,
for the peace accorded us this day,
for the hope with which we expect the morrow,
for the health, the work, the food,
and the bright skies that make our lives delightful;
for our friends in all parts of the earth.
Amen



Suggested Music:

CLASSICAL

- Ave Maria (Franz Schubert)
- Wedding March (Felix Mendelsson)
- The Blue Danube (Johann Strauss 11)
- Fur Elise (Ludwig Von Beethoven)
- Arioso (Johann Sebastian Bach)

CONTEMPORARY

- God Only Knows (The Beach Boys)
- Crazy Little Thing Called Love (Queen)
- Thinking Out Loud (Ed Sheeran)
- A Thousand Years (Christina Perri)
- Just the Way You Are (Bruno Mars)

JAZZ

- The Way You Look Tonight (Frank Sinatra/Michael Buble')
- Come Away With Me (Norah Jones)
- What a Wonderful World (Louis Armstrong)
- Unforgettable (Nat King and Natalie Cole)
- Dream a Little Dream of Me (Ella Fitzgerald)

ROCK

- All You Need Is Love (The Beatles)
- Everlong (Foo Fighters)
- Signed Sealed Delivered (Stevie Wonder)
- Forever (Mumford & Sons)
- Don't Want To Miss A Thing (Aerosmith)



Suggested Rituals

UNITY CANDLE CEREMONY



The Unity Candle Ceremony is a great option if your mother's really want to be involved in your ceremony. Some mothers have anxiously anticipated the wedding day and want to play up their role as the "Mother of the Bride" or "Mother of the Groom". It is nice because they don't have to say anything! The mothers in the picture above wanted to be a part of the ceremony but one of them did not want a speaking part. This was perfect for them.

Then after the couple have exchanged rings and vows, they take each of the candles and light the one Unity Candle together



WINE BOX CEREMONY



Locked boxed – Couple write messages to each other that are locked in a box with a bottle of red wine. Box is opened on 5th wedding anniversary, couple read each others message while drinking the wine.

This is something that is special just for the couple. It can be expanded to have guests write comments and put into the locked box too, it will be fund for the couple to read these all in five years.



Welcome Script Options:

1. Family members have travelled from overseas

Good afternoon.

Welcome, family, friends and loved ones. We gather here today to celebrate the wedding of NAME and NAME. You have come here to share in this formal commitment they make to one another, to offer your love and support to this union, and to allow NAME and NAME to start their married life together surrounded by the people dearest and most important to them.

So welcome to one and all, who have travelled from near and far. NAME and NAME thank you for your presence here today and now ask for your blessing, encouragement, and lifelong support, for their decision to be married.

2. Small gathering

Good Afternoon

First, I'd like to begin by welcoming everyone and thanking each and every one of you for being here on this most happy of days. It's no accident that each of you are here today, and each of you were invited to be here because you represent someone important in the individual and collective lives of NAME and NAME.

I truly can't think of a better venue than this for an occasion that I know is not only monumental for the wedded-couple-to-be, but for all of us who are lucky to know and love them as individuals; but even more so as a perfect pairing.

The most remarkable moment in life is when you meet the person who makes you feel complete. The person who makes the world a beautiful and magical place. The person with whom you share a bond so special that it transcends normal relationships and becomes something so pure and so wonderful, that you can't imagine spending another day of your life without them. I know how



deeply these two care for and love one another, and I feel privileged to be here today among all of you as a witness of their commitment to a lifetime of love for one another.

Words About Marriage:

1. Acknowledging joining two Cultures:

Today is a day to celebrate. We are celebrating the love, commitment, and friendship of two people who love each other and wish to spend the rest of their lives together.

The marriage ceremony is a significant part of nearly every culture, religion, generation, and society. Despite all of our differences, we all share the love. Love is the great unifier, regardless of who we are, where we've come from or what we believe in.

We can all describe love in many ways and love can look different from one person to the other, but we all know love when we see it. And we can see love right here.

2. Both marrying for the second time and have children:

Today is the beginning of a new life together for you and your children. It marks the commencement of new relationships to your families, your friends, and certainly to each other. You have invited these special guests to share in one of life's greatest moments as they give recognition to the worth and beauty of your love and add their best wishes to the words that shall unite you today as husband and wife. You are to commit yourselves to each other as the one and to your children as a family.

Through the ages, man has tried to define "love." Poems, songs, and books all have been written trying to describe this little four letter word. "Love" is characterized in your lives and the lives of your children if you are to live in joy and harmony and to honour each one of the family members.



A Giving Away

1. The bride does not wish to be given away but would like both parents to affirm their blessing of the marriage

Celebrant: "(Parents' names), do you support your child's decision to join together in holy matrimony with (name), and do you vow to receive (him/her) as a member of your family from this day on?

Answer: "With love in our hearts for both (name) and (name), we joyfully do."

2. The couple has asked for a community vow of support instead of a giving away

Celebrant: (*addressing the guests*) "This beautiful couple didn't get here all by themselves. They have been loved and cared for by you, their families and friends depending on you for guidance, and love. Without you, this day would not be possible. From this day forward, they will likely need your support in different ways, but they will still depend on that support. With this in mind, I ask will you take (name & name), into your hearts and support them?"

Answer: "We will."

The Asking

- GROOM/BRIDE do you take GROOM/BRIDE to be your lawful wedded Husband/Wife? Do you promise to love, honour, cherish and protect him/her, and be faithful to him/her. Do you promise not to whine at him/her when he/she forgets to take out the garbage or pick up his/her clothes from the floor. ("I do")
- GROOM/BRIDE will you take GROOM/BRIDE to be your lawful wedded wife this day, standing by him/her no matter what happens, respecting him/her as a person, understanding



his/her needs, supporting the All Blacks Rugby team, loving him/her until death parts you?

Personalised Vows:

- I love that you and I will spend the rest of our lives together. Somehow my life has come to this amazing moment and now I will always share it with you. You are my guide to love, my every wish, and the person I want to grow old with.
- In front of our friends and family gathered here, I promise to love and cherish you in good times and in bad. I promise to put down the toilet seat – and to replace the toilet roll when it's over and to never, ever, ever forget our wedding anniversary or your birthday.
- I promise to love you as much as I do our dog. From this day forward, I will lint roll the chairs whenever your parents visit. I will love you in sickness and in health, as long as you take care of the vet visits. I promise to cuddle you as much as I do (pet's name) and pick up treats for you whenever he gets some too.

Ring Exchange

1. Both parties wear a ring

- I give you this ring as a sign of our love for and commitment to each other. I promise to support you, care for you, and stand alongside you for all of our days.”
- “I give you this ring as a symbol of my faith in our united strength. It shines as brightly as my undying love for you.”
- “This beautifully crafted ring is an outward reminder of our inner unity, a bond which is stronger than any obstacle.”



2. The Groom will not be receiving a ring, the bride will 'accept' the ring place on her finger

- GROOM "I give you this ring as a gift that lasts forever. Know that I'm always with you, behind you, and by your side."

- BRIDE "I accept this ring as a symbol of our love knowing you will always be behind me and beside me"

- GROOM "I give you this ring as a way of showing just how much I love you. I'm delighted to call you my wife and spend the rest of our days together."

BRIDE "I accept this ring knowing how much you love me and want to spend the rest of your life with me"

Presentation of the Couple

- Ladies and Gentlemen, it is now my pleasure to present for the first time, Mr. and Mrs. GROOM and BRIDE LAST NAME.

- And now, to all the friends and family who have come to celebrate this marriage, I would like to present, for the first time anywhere, Mr. & Mrs. LAST NAME.



Further Information

How to Make a Complaint:

In the unlikely event that you have a complaint about any aspect of my celebrant services, feel free to call or email me directly. If you are unhappy with my reply, or fail to reach adequate closure on the matter, you can make a complaint directly to the Attorney General's Office

Marriage Education Services:

Included in this "Information Kit" is a copy of "*Happily Ever....Before and After*". This brochure gives you much needed information about getting married, including a section on "*Strengthening Your Marriage*". Should you or your partner require assistance with any aspect of your marriage, family life, or co-habitation, there is a range of excellent services available to you:

www.relationshipmatters.com.au

www.catholiccare.org.au

www.bridgecounselling.com.au

www.izito.com.au

Code of Practice for Marriage Celebrants

Included in this Information Pack is a copy of "*Code of Practice for Marriage Celebrants*". This must be adhered to by all marriage celebrants registered under Part IV, Division 1, Subdivision C of the *Marriage Act 1961*