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# WEDDING

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Information Kit



# Wedding Information Kit

## Page 1

Table of Contents

## Page 2

- Purpose of the Ceremony
- Outline of Structure

## Page 3 Ceremony Options

## Pages 4

Wedding Script Questionnaire

## Page 5

- Code of Practice Information
- Information on how to make a Complaint

## Page 6 Code of Practice for Marriage Celebrants

## Page 7 Marriage Education Services

The following information is provided to you as a guide to enable you to make an informed decision and choice about having a marriage celebrant and about what type of ceremony you would like.

# Wedding Information Kit

## Purpose of the Ceremony

The meaning of ceremony according to the Compact Oxford English Dictionary, is a public occasion typically celebrating a specific event, involving set procedures.

The main reason for having a public ceremony with an Authorised Marriage Celebrant conducting preceding's, would be to publicly celebrate your union with another person.

According to the Guidelines in the Marriage Act 1961 for authorised celebrants (Sept 2021)

“Authorised Marriage Celebrants have an important role not only in legal consequence of marriage, but also because of its central significance to the parties, both individually and as a couple”.

The ceremony must encompass important legal aspects, but the ceremony can be what you want it to be, and that is the beauty of engaging an authorised marriage celebrant for this special occasion.

## Outline of Wedding Ceremony *(example of structure)*

- Processional/ Entrance
- Welcome
- “Giving away’ or presenting
- Introduction
- Reading
- **Monitum (mandatory)**
- ‘The Asking’
- **Legal Vows (mandatory)**
- Additional / personal vows
- Ring exchange
- The Pronouncing
- **Signing legal documents (mandatory)**
- Rituals
- Conclusion
- Summing up/ Blessing
- Congratulations and Presentation
- Recessional/ Exit  
(Housekeeping on day)

# Wedding Information Kit

## **Ceremony Options**

There are traditional aspects of any ceremony, the outline of ceremony (on the previous page) gives you what can be incorporated into a ceremony structure. You can choose as much or as little as you prefer for the day. There are of course mandatory elements that must occur according to the Marriage Act 1961, Australia.

## **Rituals:**

There may be certain gestures or actions that have a special significance to you as a couple that can be incorporated into any ceremony examples include:

- Hand fasting
- Ring warming/ blessing
- Use of a canopy/ covering / archway in ceremony

## **Music:**

Music can be played or sung live by a small ensemble/soloist and/or recorded music can also be used during the ceremony. Any musical genre can be used during the ceremony.

A list is included below to give you some musical ideas to assist on your special day.

- Ave Maria (Schubert)
- Hallelujah (Leonard Cohen)
- Can you feel the love tonight (Elton John)
- For the Beauty of the Earth (John Rutter)

## **Readings:**

You can ask a family member or friend to read during the ceremony to add special significance for you. A list of readings is provided below to give you some literary ideas for the ceremony.

- The Owl and the Pussy Cat (Edward Lear)
- Sonnet 18 “Shall I compare thee to a summers day” (William Shakespeare)
- “Fidelity” poem (D.H. Lawrence)
- Excerpt from Twelfth Night “If Music be the food of love play on” (William Shakespeare)

Pets can be incorporated into your ceremony to play a special role. But note you need someone to manage and look after your pet during the ceremony/day.

# Wedding Information Kit

## **Wedding script questionnaire**

*If you are able to complete some or all of the questions below, this will assist me in writing a script for your wedding ceremony.*

Names of couple getting married:

How and where did you meet?

What does the ceremony/ marriage/ union mean to you both?

What does love mean to you both?

Any special reason why you chose the location for the ceremony?

Any specific mention to any family members or friends who are not able to share your special day?

Work / Hobbies and Pets?

Do the readings or music chosen for the ceremony, have any specific significance for you as a couple?

Funny event that has happened to you as a couple?

Where in world did you grow up? Country/City and most significant thing about this place?

Special Holidays?

Favourite place in the world and why?

Hopes and dreams for the future.

Is there anything else that you would like to share at the ceremony with the guests?

# Wedding Information Kit

## **Code of Practice Information**

As stated in the Guidelines on the Marriage Act 1961 for authorised celebrants (Sept 2021) “Commonwealth-registered marriage celebrants are required to comply with the Code of Practice Schedule 2 to the Marriage Regulations” (Marriage Act)

It is a pre-requisite that as a marriage celebrant you should display or provide a copy of the Code of Practice to the marrying couple to take away.

*Please see Code of Practice attached on next page for your information.*

## **Information on how to make a complaint**

All complaints are handled by the Attorney-Generals’ Department

<https://www.ag.gov.au>

- These must be made within 3 months of first becoming aware of the problem.
- Made on an official complaints form.
- The Attorney-General’s department will review and then write to respective parties and investigate the complaint.
- A response will be received by the Marriage celebrant as to the final decision.

# Wedding Information Kit

Updated: 1 April 2018

## CODE OF PRACTICE FOR MARRIAGE CELEBRANTS

The Code of Practice for Marriage Celebrants is contained in Schedule 2 of the Marriage Regulations 2017.

### 1 APPLICATION OF THIS CODE OF PRACTICE

This Code of Practice applies to marriage celebrants.

*Note 1:* A marriage celebrant is a person registered under Subdivision C of Division 1 of Part IV of the *Marriage Act 1961*: see subsection 5(1) of that Act.

*Note 2:* Under paragraph 39I(1)(b) of that Act, if the Registrar of Marriage Celebrants is satisfied that a marriage celebrant has not complied with an obligation under section 39G of that Act, including this Code of Practice, the Registrar may take disciplinary measures against the marriage celebrant.

### 2 HIGH STANDARD OF SERVICE

A marriage celebrant must maintain a high standard of service in his or her professional conduct and practice. This includes (without limitation) ensuring the following:

- (a) appropriate personal presentation for marriage ceremonies;
- (b) punctuality for marriage ceremonies;
- (c) accuracy in preparation of documents and in the conduct of marriage ceremonies.

### 3 RECOGNITION OF SIGNIFICANCE OF MARRIAGE

A marriage celebrant must recognise the social, cultural and legal significance of marriage and the marriage ceremony in the Australian community, and the importance of strong and respectful family relationships.

### 4 COMPLIANCE WITH THE ACT AND OTHER LAWS

A marriage celebrant must:

- (a) comply with the requirements of the *Marriage Act 1961* and the *Marriage Regulations 2017* which apply to the marriage celebrant; and
- (b) observe the laws of the Commonwealth and of any State or Territory in which the marriage celebrant solemnises marriages; and
- (c) avoid unlawful discrimination in the provision of marriage celebrancy services.

### 5 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MARRIAGE CEREMONIES

A marriage celebrant must respect the importance of the marriage ceremony to the parties and the other persons organising the ceremony. This includes (without limitation) the following:

# Wedding Information Kit

## Marriage Education Services: Lane Cove, North Shore

### **1. Lane Cove Marriage and Relationship Counselling**

1/221 Longueville Road

Lane Cove

NSW 2066

(02) 8002 1017

<http://www.couplecounselling.com.au>

- Offer Marriage counselling, relationship counselling, pre marriage counselling for individual in the Lane Cove area.
- Appointments cost \$150-\$220 (Health Fund rebates available)
- 30 locations- can book in within the week.
- Part of the Associated Relationships & Marriage Counsellors

### **2. Jill Henry Counselling and Psychotherapy**

39 Johnston Crescent

Lane Cove

NSW 2066

Mob: 0439 427 405

[jill@henry.com.au](mailto:jill@henry.com.au)

- Pre-marriage counselling and short courses for couples
- Recommended for couples to attend 3 x 2hour sessions ideally once a week for 3 weeks- covering commitment, communication, influence, family backgrounds, problems, intimacy and building / maintaining a rewarding relationship.
- Offered in person, either in Lane Cove or Bondi also telephone and online counselling available. No cost stated on website would need to call.

### **3. Margie Mitchell**

Located: The Village Shopping Centre

Suite 9/43-45 Burns Bay Road

Lane Cove

NSW 2066

Mob: 0447 042 655 (No website listed)

- Based locally in Lane Cove, Margie is a relationship counsellor specialising in individual, couple and family counselling.
- Open late afternoon / evening 4.30-7pm approx. and on Saturdays 9-11am
- Other location is at McMahons Point: Good Relationship Practice
- \$220 per session (accept insurance)
- Contact: (02) 9100 0423