

# *The Marriage Ceremony*

## *Introduction*

We are gathered in this place to witness the formal joining in the legal state of matrimony for this couple, according to the order and the custom prevailing, and under the authority given and provided by the Province of British Columbia.

The state of matrimony, as understood by us, is a state ennobled and enriched by a long and honourable tradition of devotion, set in the basis of the law of the land, assuring each participant an equality before the law, and supporting the common rights of each party to the marriage.

There is assumed to be a desire for a life-long companionship, and a generous sharing of the help and comfort that a couple ought to have from each other, through whatever circumstances of sickness or health, joy or sorrow, prosperity or adversity, the lives of these parties may experience.

Marriage is therefore not to be entered upon thoughtlessly or irresponsibly, but with a due and serious understanding and appreciation of the ends for which it is undertaken, and of the material, intellectual and emotional factors which will govern its fulfillment.

It is by its nature a state of giving rather than taking, of offering rather than receiving, for marriage requires the giving of one's self to support the marriage and the home in which it may flourish.

It is into this high and serious state that these two persons desire to unite.

## *Therefore:*

I charge and require of you both in the presence of these witnesses, that if either of you know of any legal impediment to this marriage, you do now reveal the same.

Let \_\_\_(party 1) repeat after me:

**I solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, \_\_\_(party 1), may not be joined in matrimony to \_\_\_(party 2).**

Let \_\_\_(party 2) repeat after me:

**I solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, \_\_\_(party 2), may not be joined in matrimony to \_\_\_(party 1).**

There having been no reason given why this couple may not be married, I ask you to give answer to these questions:

Do you \_\_\_(party 1) undertake to afford to \_\_\_(party 2) the love of your person, the comfort of your companionship, and the patience of your understanding; and to share equally of the necessities of life as they may be earned or enjoyed by you; to respect the dignity of their person, their own inalienable personal rights, and to recognize the right of counsel and consultation upon all matters relating to the present or the future of the household established by this marriage?

Answer: I do

Do you \_\_\_(party 2) undertake to afford to \_\_\_(party 1) the love of your person, the comfort of your companionship, and the patience of your understanding; and to share equally of the necessities of life as they may be earned or enjoyed by you; to respect the dignity of their person, their own inalienable personal rights, and to recognize the right of counsel and consultation upon all matters relating to the present or the future of the household established by this marriage?

Answer: I do

## ***The Marriage Vows***

Let the couple join their right hands and let \_\_\_(party 1) repeat after me:

**I call on those present to witness that I, \_\_\_(party 1) take \_\_\_(party 2) to be my lawful wedded wife/husband** to have and to hold, from this day forward, in whatever circumstance or experience life may hold for us.

Let \_\_\_(party 2) repeat after me:

**I call on those present to witness that I, \_\_\_(party 2) take \_\_\_(party 1) to be my lawful wedded wife/husband** to have and to hold, from this day forward, in whatever circumstance or experience life may hold for us.

## ***The Rings***

Inasmuch as you have made this declaration of your vows concerning one another, and have set this (these) ring (rings) before me, I ask that now this ring (these rings) be used and regarded as a seal and a confirmation and acceptance of the vows you have made.

Let \_\_\_(party 1) place the ring on the third finger of \_\_\_(party 2)'s left hand, repeating after me:

With this ring, as the token and pledge of the vow and covenant of my word, I call upon those persons present to witness that I, \_\_\_(party 1) do take thee, \_\_\_(party 2) to be my lawful wedded wife/husband.

Let \_\_\_(party 2) say after me:

In receiving this ring, being the token and pledge of the covenant of your word, I call upon those persons present to witness that I, \_\_\_(party 2) do take thee, \_\_\_(party 1) to be my lawful wedded husband/wife.

If a second ring is presented, let one party place the ring on the third finger of the other party's left hand, repeating after me:

With this ring I promise and give to you the truth and faithfulness of my life in marriage.

Let the other party reply:

In receiving this ring I promise and give to you the truth and faithfulness of my life in marriage.

## ***The Declaration***

And now, forasmuch as you \_\_\_(party 1) and \_\_\_(party 2) have consented to legal wedlock, and have declared your solemn intention in this company, before these witnesses, and in my presence, and have exchanged this (these) ring (rings) as the pledge of your vows to each other; now upon the authority vested in me by the Province of British Columbia, I pronounce you as duly married.

May you enjoy length of days, fulfillment of hopes, and peace and contentment of mind, as you day by day live and fulfill the terms of this covenant you have made with one another.