

Civil Vows

Groom and Bride, today you are surrounded by your friends and family, all of whom are gathered here to witness your marriage and to share in the joy of this occasion, which can be one of the most memorable and happy days of your lives. As you know, no minister, priest, rabbi, or public official can marry you; only you can marry yourselves. By a mutual commitment to love each other; to work toward creating an atmosphere of care, consideration and respect; by a willingness to face the tensions and anxieties that underlie human life, you can make your wedded life come alive.

On this day of your marriage, you stand somewhat apart from all other human beings. You stand within the charmed circle of your love! And this is as it should be! But love is not meant to be the possession of two people alone; rather it should serve as a source of common energy; as a form in which you find the strength to live your life with courage. From this day onward, you must love one another in sickness and in health; for better or for worse. But at the same time, your love should give you the strength to stand apart; to seek out your unique destinies; to make your special contribution to the world which is always part of us and more than us.

Today, as you join yourselves in marriage, there is a vast and unknown future stretching out before you. The possibilities and potentials, of your married life, are Great! It now falls upon your shoulders to choose values and make real the highest vision of life that you can conceive. In this way, you will create the meaning of your life. If your love is vital, it will make the choosing and taking action easier for you. You stand before me, today, as two mature and thoughtful people; who wish to express their emotions within the framework of a meaningful life. For your self-reliance, your courage and your love, you deserve our respect.

I would like, at this time, to speak of some of the things which many of us wish for you. First of all, we wish for you a love that makes both of you better people. That continues to give you joy and a zest for living. That you are provided with the energy to face the responsibilities of life. We wish for you a home, not a place of stone and wood, but an island of sanity and serenity in a frenzied world. We hope this home is not just a place of private joy and retreat, but rather serves as a temple, wherein the values of your life are generated and upheld. We wish for you a home with books, poetry and music; a home with all the things which represent the highest strivings of men and women.

Finally, we wish that, at the end of your lives, you will be able to say these two things to each other. Because you have loved me, you have given me faith in myself. And, because I have seen the good in you, I have received from you, a faith in all humanity.

Let us acknowledge that we are here today to celebrate the love which Groom and Bride have for each other and to give social recognition to their decision to accept each other totally and permanently: will you face one another and join both hands? May I have the rings?

Groom, Please place this ring upon Bride's left hand. Do you, Groom, promise Bride that, from this day forward, she will be your wife and you will stand with her in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow and do you pledge to her your respect and your love?

I Do.

Bride, please place this ring upon Groom's left hand. Do you, Bride, promise Groom that, from this day forward, he will be your husband and you will stand by him in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow and do you pledge to him your respect and your love?

I Do.

By joining hands and by the giving and receiving of a ring you have acknowledged the pledge of love and fidelity that you have each given to the other.

Now, according to the form of solemnization of marriage by the state of Arizona, but most of all, by the power of your love, I pronounce you Married! You may now call yourselves by those old and respected names: Husband and Wife.

Groom you may kiss Your Bride!