

Sample Ceremony

A Civil Ceremony does not need to be in any set pattern. Neither long, short, formal or informal. It really is **whatever** you want it to be...

Other than the essential declarations and vows (The **Monitum** which is listed in the Outline below in **bold** text and then summarised later under Key Elements – is required to cover legalities) the rest of your ceremony is personal choice.

I see my role as being guide and facilitator of each couples' individual wishes! We will write your ceremony together; you will lead and I will follow. With the goal being my delivery on your special day of a ceremony that is both fitting and personal to you as a couple.

This outline is a rough guide to get you started....

Outline

1. Seating music - as your guests arrive and seat themselves
2. Processional music for the arrival of the wedding party if relevant (recorded or live)
3. A welcome to guests on your behalf and to introduce myself as Celebrant
4. **Celebrant's Authority, Section 46, Marriage Act (Monitum)**
5. An introduction that says something about your ideas, hopes and aspirations for your marriage and may include what you would like me to say about you as a couple.
6. A reading (optional) maybe groomsman, bridesmaid, Celebrant, family or friend...
7. The Asking (not a legal necessity but a nice fun segway to the vows)
8. **The Legal Vows.**
9. Your personally written vows.
10. The Ring Exchange.
11. Special Ceremony/Ritual/Other reading or special personal event if required.
12. Declaration of the marriage and a first kiss.
13. **The signing of the Register with 2 witnesses - anyone over 18 may be your witness.**
14. Music during the signing.
15. Good wishes or Blessing for the Marriage.
16. Introduction of the newlywed couple & presentation of the certificate of marriage.
17. Recessional music as you take your first journey as a married couple to receive your guests' congratulations!

Key Legal Elements

Celebrant's Authority, Section 46, Marriage Act (Monitum)

*My name is Deborah Lilley and I am duly authorised by law to solemnise 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 Vows

As per Section 45 (2) Marriage Act, this is the critical legal part of your marriage ceremony. **You must use the legal words** but you may add your personal promises to the legal words.

EACH PARTNER: Can you please repeat after me -

I call upon the persons here present to witness that I FULL NAME take thee FULL NAME to be my lawful wedded wife (or husband).

Signing of Documents

After you have said your vows -

Yourselves, your two legal witnesses (over the age of 18) and myself all sign three (3) legal documents.