

# Oldham Civil Marriage Ceremony

**NOTE:** This is the standard format for civil ceremonies in the Oldham Metropolitan Borough\*. By law you must each say either declaration 1, 2 or 3 **and** the contracting words A, B or C as shown in bold type below. Additional words may be incorporated at the places marked ❖. These optional inserts are shown overleaf. **Please advise the Register Office of your choices no less than two weeks before the ceremony.** Couples arranging a marriage at one of the Approved Premises may make arrangements to pay fees in advance, and discuss the form of ceremony with the Superintendent Registrar who is to perform the ceremony on the day by making an appointment 2 weeks before the date. Please note that it is not possible to request a specific Superintendent Registrar for marriages taking place on Saturdays, Sundays or Bank Holidays.

*“Good morning/afternoon everyone, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am the Superintendent Registrar and I would like to welcome you all here today to celebrate the marriage of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.”*

## ❖ **Insert One**

*“Before you are joined in matrimony I have to tell you that this place in which we are now met has been duly sanctioned according to law for the celebration of marriages. Marriage according to the law of this country is the union of one man with one woman, voluntarily entered into for life to the exclusion of all others.*

*“So that we are in no doubt as to who is being married here today would you like to tell me your full names?”*

*“If any person present knows of any lawful impediment to this marriage they should declare it now.*

*“Would you both now please stand? First of all I am going to ask each of you to make a declaration before the witnesses here present that there is no reason why you may not be married to each other and then later in the ceremony I shall ask you to exchange the words by which you contract the marriage and accept each other as husband and wife.”*

- 1. I do solemnly declare that I know not of any lawful impediment why I \_\_\_\_\_ may not be joined in matrimony to \_\_\_\_\_.**
- 2. I declare that I know of no legal reason why I \_\_\_\_\_ may not be joined in marriage to \_\_\_\_\_.**
- 3. Are you \_\_\_\_\_ free lawfully to marry \_\_\_\_\_? (Response: I am)**

*“As I said earlier in the ceremony, any marriage union which you enter into has to be done so freely and voluntarily. I therefore ask each of you this question: \_\_\_\_\_ do you by your own choice, freely and willingly enter into the legal union of marriage with \_\_\_\_\_?”*

*“I would like you both to turn to face each other. We have now reached the part of the ceremony where rings are given and received.*

**I call upon these persons here present to witness that:**

- A. I \_\_\_\_\_ do take thee \_\_\_\_\_ to be my lawful wedded wife/husband.**
- B. I \_\_\_\_\_ take you \_\_\_\_\_ to be my wedded wife/husband.**
- C. I \_\_\_\_\_ take thee \_\_\_\_\_ to be my wedded wife/husband.**

## ❖ **Insert Two**

*“\_\_\_\_\_ (name) I give you this ring/I accept this ring from you as a token/symbol of our marriage”*

## ❖ **Insert Three**

*“\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ you have both made the declarations prescribed by law and have made a pledge to each other for the future. It gives me pleasure to pronounce you man and wife together.*

## ❖ **Insert Four**

\*Please note that whilst the content of the ceremony will remain the same there may be slight variations as to the wording used by the individual Superintendent Registrar.

# Optional Inserts

The following may be used to enhance the Oldham Civil Marriage Ceremony. You may include up to four of the following at the places indicated in the standard ceremony. Advance notice of your preferences is required at least one week before your wedding day.

## ❖ Insert One (see also insert k)

- (a) Your wedding day is one of the most important of life's milestones. You are asking your families and friends to share your happiness and witness your expression of commitment to each other. It needs to be celebrated in a way which is true to your ideals and will provide strength and inspiration for the rest of your lives as well as many happy memories. Marriage joins two people who trust in the love that they have found. It is a partnership in which each can grow and be their true selves whilst also becoming part of the other. It expresses the confidence that human warmth and dedication to the wellbeing of each other can overcome whatever the future may hold.

## ❖ Insert Two

- (b) I call upon these persons here present to witness that I \_\_\_\_\_ do take thee \_\_\_\_\_ to be my lawful wedded wife/husband and give this ring as a symbol of my love, respect and life long commitment to you. From this day forward, no matter what life holds for us, you will have my support, friendship, faithful companionship and undying love. And this is my pledge to you.
- (c) I give you this ring as a symbol of all that we have promised, and all that we shall share.
- (d) We have now reached the part of the ceremony where rings are given and received. The rings are round in form to symbolise the circle of life and to show that your vows to each other shall never reach an end.
- (e) From this day forward I will be faithful to you. I will always love, cherish and respect you. I will be there for you whatever life may bring us. This is my vow to you. I give you this ring as a token of our marriage, all that I am I give to you and all that I have I share with you.
- (f) I give you this ring as a token of my love and fidelity for you to wear as a symbol of our marriage and I call upon the persons here present to witness that I \_\_\_\_\_ do take thee \_\_\_\_\_ to be my lawful wedded wife/husband. I will love and honour you forsaking all others and remaining faithful only to you and this I promise you.

## ❖ Insert Three

- (g) From this day forward we admit to ourselves and the world that we intend to be together through good times and bad, in sickness and in health, come what may I will always love, respect and support you. I will be a faithful companion and be there for you, through whatever life brings us, until we are parted by death and this is my vow to you.

- (h) I promise to bring only kindness and love to our marriage. When there is sadness I will comfort you, when there is happiness I will laugh with you and I will try to make all your dreams come true.
- (i) May all the love and happiness you two have found together, like the circle of a wedding ring, go on and on forever.
- (j) From today you are admitting to yourselves and everyone gathered here that you intend to be together through good times and bad, come what may, and that you will love, respect and support each other.
- (k) A promise can spur plans to action  
A promise can keep hope alive  
A promise can bind weak intentions  
And a promise help partners survive  
But promises broken spell heartache  
Lost trust is so hard to repair  
So build life on love's strongest fabric  
When words become a bond each can share  
(may also be used as Insert One)

## ❖ Insert Four

- (l) As you go through life together  
Sharing all that comes your way  
May you always know the special love  
That brought you to this day
- (m) \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ I would just like to say that I hope the ordinary things that you share will become special and that the special things become great and I hope everything about your day and the coming years will hold nothing but happiness for you both. Now having both consented to be joined together in marriage and having made the declarations required by law which have been witnessed by your family and friends gathered here today, I am very happy to declare that you are now husband and wife together. You may now kiss the bride. (*in place of final paragraph*)
- (n) Before you sign the register, on behalf of all the people gathered here today I wish you both all the joy and happiness that mutual love can bring and to celebrate the event I would like to read the following poem:
- Now you will feel no rain,  
for each of you will be shelter for the other.  
Now you feel no cold,  
for each of you will be warmth to the other.  
Now there is no more loneliness.  
Now you are two persons,  
but there is only one life before you.  
Go now to your dwelling,  
to enter into the days of your life together.  
And may your days be good and long upon the earth.