

## NAMING CEREMONY

Good morning. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I would like to welcome you to the (venue). My role here today is to lead you through this special naming ceremony

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have invited you all here today to join in their celebrations and to witness the promises and commitments they will be making to their daughter/son. On their behalf, I would like to thank you all for coming today for this special occasion.

A naming ceremony is an opportunity to announce the name that has been chosen for a child and to welcome a child into the family and wider community. It is also an opportunity for the parents to publicly acknowledge their responsibility for their child, not only as its representative but also in the expectation that they will safeguard and promote their child's health development and welfare.

The choosing of a name is one of the most important decisions a parent has to make. It is one of the child's first milestones and can shape its future. A name gives a child identity but more importantly a name can signify that he or she is part of a family and provides a sense of belonging.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ realise that they have a real influence in their child's life and that they are playing an extremely privileged and important role so they would like to mark their commitment to their D/S by making promises to their D/S before you their family and friends.

They will be committing themselves to nurture and support their D/S into adult life

There are other adults here today who will publicly acknowledge a supporting friendship to this special child.

You may consider your own relationship with her/him and how you can enrich her/his life

Today we have a chance to reflect on the miracle of birth and recognise that children are society's hope for the future

### **Optional Reading**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ could you bring your D/S forward and would the supporting adults also come forward.

We are now going to announce the name which has been chosen for this child (parents)\_ D/S. Please could you tell us the name that you have chosen?

**(NAME)**

I would like to welcome (child's name) into this family and wider community. (child's name) your family is a circle of love and strength. With every union and birth the circle grows. Every joy shared adds more love. Every obstacle faced together makes the circle stronger. We hope you have a long life filled with good health strength and wisdom and that you are happy and rich in love and contentment.

We have reached the part in the ceremony where (parents names) will make their promises to their D/S  
(parents' names) please repeat after me

We promise/(Do you promise) in the presence of our families and friends to love ( child's name) forever and keep her/him safe from harm

We promise (Do you promise to ---)/nurture and support (child's name)

We promise (Do you promise) to raise (child's name) to believe in friendships and to understand the importance of their contribution to society.

We promise (Do you promise) to help (child's name) to learn right from wrong and encourage her/him to always try to do the right thing

### **Optional Insert 1 parents promise to each other**

The supporting adults have agreed to offer a supporting friendship to (child's name). I am now going to ask them to make their promises to (child's name) and his/her parents

Do you promise to keep (child's name) in your thoughts and encourage her/him to achieve her/ his aspirations

Do you promise to offer support to (parents' names) in the upbringing of (child's name), be loyal friends and be there for them when they need you?

Please be seated

### **Optional Insert 2 Grandparents Promises**

#### **Optional Reading**

#### **Optional Insert 3 Gift Presentation**

#### **Optional Insert 4 wishes from absent friends**

Before we close today's ceremony

I would now like to ask (parents names) to come forward and sign the certificate. Would the supporting adults also now come forward to sign. I would like to thank everyone for coming today and taking part in today's ceremony. I would now like to present the parents with the certificate to commemorate the occasion. Congratulations. (POSSIBLE TOAST).