



Wedding Information Kit Memories and Moments in Time



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Congratulations!

Thank you for choosing me to officiate at your special day. Weddings are wonderful occasions. We all have connections to a wedding. For some they bring to mind hope for the future and for others memories and emotions of their own special day.

Marriage is a serious legal commitment between two consenting adults. Your ceremony needs to represent you as individuals and as a couple. By working with me, you will be able to tailor make your day to suit your needs and those of your family as well.

Contained in this *Wedding Information Kit*, you will find presented a basic outline structure of a wedding, a selection of poems, readings and blessings that you might find suitable to use. Please remember that it is your day and you are able to fully customise it to suit your own taste.

Also contained in the kit are three examples of music and when it would be suitable to play within the ceremony. To further assist you in planning your event, two rituals have been included. If you need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Once again thank you for choosing Memories and Moments in Time.

I look forward to making your wedding one to remember!

Your Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DEAN EDDY', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

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Basic wedding structure

Weddings are the uniting of two people who have chosen to publicly commit to each other in accordance to law. The purpose and significance of the wedding ceremony helps couples to celebrate their special day with family, friends and their guests. Couples undertaking the sanctity of marriage do so of their own free will. They also understand the legal nature of their commitment and that it has legal consequences.

Housekeeping – before arrival
<p>To ensure your day runs to your wishes, planning starts with the housekeeping. What would you like the celebrant to mention to your guests before you both arrive?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Photos• Mobile phone• Unplugged wedding• Social media blackout periods• Asking for their attention in anticipate for the arrival of both parties• Music is usually played
Welcome – after arrival
<p>After the bride/groom enters, what would you like the celebrant to say?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• People not able to attend• Special mention to those who have travelled to attend• Sentence one from the Monitum can be spoken at this point if required• Music is usually played as the bride/groom is walking down the aisle
Giving away – this can be an option
<p>Not every bride/groom is given away, who will be escorting you down the aisle?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Father• Mother• Mother and Father• Friend or family member• At this point a ritual could be undertaken i.e. candle lighting
Introduction
<p>This section the celebrant talks about what marriage means to you as a couple, the commitment to each other and the commitment you are both about to undertake. This section you are able to tailor your ceremony to your style and wishes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How you met• Your romance• Your journey so far

Readings / Poems

By including readings and poems into your ceremony, you are able to include other people into your special day. By selecting a reading or piece of poetry you are able to have words spoken that have a deeper meaning to you both and your guests.

To comply with copywrite law the following must be mentioned when including a reading or poem:

- Title of reading/poem
- Author

The Monitum

All Commonwealth registered marriage celebrants have a legal obligation to say the words in the monitum. There are minimum words that can be changed/substituted. Couples need to speak with their celebrant to select the correct words are used in your ceremony to ensure the marriage is solemnised in accordance with *Marriage Act 1961* (Cth).

"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 in to for life."

- Only sentence one can be separated, sentence two and three must be said together
- If sentence one of the monitum was used early in the ceremony, it does not have to be repeated here

Optional: The asking – question of consent

The (legal) vows

As with the monitum, there is a legal obligation that the legal vows are repeated as per the legislation. There are minimum words that can be changed/substituted. Couples need to speak with their celebrant to select the correct words are used in your ceremony to ensure the marriage is solemnised in accordance with *Marriage Act 1961* (Cth).

- Couples may choose to include personal vows, these can be added to the legal vows

"I call upon the persons here present to witness that I, A.B. (or C.D.), take thee, C.D (or A.B.), to be my lawful wedded wife (or husband, or spouse)

Optional: Personal vows (non-legal)

Ring exchange – this can be an option

The giving of rings is a powerful symbol of the contiguous bond and love that you share. Not all couples exchange rings, while others have rituals such as ring warming and blessings to show their deepening love, respect and faithfulness.

- Will you use a ring bearer?
- Will you include an optional ritual to ‘warm the rings’?

Declaration of marriage

This is the most exciting and very important moment in the ceremony. This is the moment you are called upon by the celebrant to kiss your partner.

- Couples need to decide if guests can take pictures of them kissing – speak to your photographer
- Take a moment and enjoy this special moment in the ceremony – your nearly married

Signing of the marriage certificates

According to Australian law three Marriage Certificates need to be witnessed by two witnesses who appear to be over 18 and are known to the couple.

While you are signing your Marriage Certificates, your guests will be invited to remain seated and wait for your return to be presented as a unified and married couple.

- Usually music is played for the guests to listen to while waiting
- Couples need to decide if guests can take pictures of them signing the Marriage Certificates – speak to your photographer

Optional: Ritual

Optional: Blessing

Presentation of the couple

Congratulation – you have made it your married!

- How do you want to be presented?
- Music is usually played

Recessional

This is where the couple walks down the aisle to be congratulated by their family, friends and guests.

- Music is usually played

Optional wedding ceremony components

Optional: The asking – question of consent
<p>This section is an option. Not all couples have an asking however, it allows you to public state you are both freely consenting to the marriage and that you are both saying 'I do'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The asking and question of consent is different to the legal vows
Optional: Personal vows (non-legal)
<p>Couples are able to personalise their ceremony by written their own vows. If personal vows are written to include the legal vows, it is a legal obligation that the wording of the vows complies with the <i>Marriage Act 1961</i> (Cth).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Palm cards can assist couple to ensure the correct vows are spoken
Optional: Ritual
<p>Many couples would like to have the opportunity to include a ritual in their ceremony. Rituals can be cultural in nature, symbolic and used to underpin the bond between two people during the marriage ceremony.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sometimes having a family member perform the ritual supports the formation of family bonds
Optional: Blessing
<p>By including a blessing into your ceremony, you are able to include other people into your special day. By selecting a blessing, you are able to have words spoken that have a deeper meaning to you both and your guests.</p> <p>To comply with copywrite law the following must be mentioned when including a blessing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Title of blessing• Author

Optional wedding ceremony rituals

Rituals	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighting of a Unity candle • Wine ceremony • A wishing box • United Hands Forever • Bell ringing • Ring warming • Sharing of wine • Seashell/Stone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural • Warming of the rings • Hand fastening • Butterfly/dove release • Sand ceremony • Jumping over a broom • Lighting Incense • ARRAS – Spanish coin ritual

Examples of rituals for a wedding ceremony

Lighting of unity candle
<p>The lighting of a candle is symbolic in meaning and represents the coming together of two families, their unity and love. Traditionally there are three candles.</p> <p>The respective mothers each light one on either side of the main candle. The couple each then takes one of the side candles and lights the main center candle.</p> <p>This action signifies the unification and acceptance of each family and the beginning of a partnership.</p>
Sharing of wine
<p>The wine glass or goblet is symbolic of the cup of life. As the couple undertakes their commitment to each other, they share the wine and promise to share all that life will bring in the future. All the sweetness the cup of life holds for them is even sweeter as they drink it together. Whatever drops of bitterness it contains are less because they are shared.</p> <p>The couple sips from the cup of life and enjoy the sharing of wine.</p>
Seashell/stone ceremony
<p>In early Australia, our convict forebears and many of the early settlers could not afford expensive trinkets and tokens as symbols of their commitment to each other. To confirm their commitment, the couple cast a stone each into a nearby river or ocean. This symbolises them remaining together forever while the tides of time ebb and flow over their lives.</p> <p>It is moving ritual; stones or shells can be engraved with the couple initials.</p>
Releasing of doves
<p>The symbol of releasing doves during a ceremony signifies a new start to life.</p> <p>The release of doves during a marriage ceremony is impressive and an unforgettable event, adding a moment to the event that will never be forgotten.</p>

Hand ceremony
<p>This is a simple but powerful ceremony, were the couple reaffirming their vows holding each other's hand (palms up), so that they can see the 'gift' that they are to each other.</p> <p>The palms of each partner area symbolic representation of the varying trials and tribulations of life. Their palms are a metaphor for many aspects of a partnership, the toil, the nurturing, the supporting, the anointing and the sacrifice.</p>
The rose ceremony
<p>During the rose ceremony there is an exchange of red roses between the couple reaffirming their vows. The significance of the exchange is to demonstrate the 'love' between the committed couple.</p> <p>Only two roses are required for the exchange.</p>

Example songs for a wedding ceremony

Processional	"A Thousand Years" by Christina Perri	From the album: The Twilight Saga: Break Dawn – Part 1, 2011
	"Chapel of Love," by The Dixie Cups	From the album: Chapel of Love, 1964
	"Marry You," by Bruno Mars	From the album: Doo-Wops & Hooligans, 2010
Signing of Marriage Certificates	"Everything I do" by Bryan Adams	From the album: Walking Up the Neighbours, 1991
	"All I Ask of You" by Barbara Streisand	From the album: Till I loved you, 1988
	"First time ever I saw your face" by Roberta Flack	From the album: First Take, 1969
Recessional	"Signed Sealed, Delivered" by Stevie Wonder	From the album: Signed Sealed Delivered I'm Yours, 1970
	"Just the Two of Us" by Bill Withers (Instrumental version)	From the album: Winelight, 1980
	"First Day of My Life" by Mel C	From the album: Beautiful Intentions, 2005

Code of practice for marriage celebrants

Updated: 1 April 2018

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR MARRIAGE CELEBRANTS

The Code of Practice for Marriage Celebrants is contained in Schedule 2 of the Marriage Regulations 2017.

1 APPLICATION OF THIS CODE OF PRACTICE

This Code of Practice applies to marriage celebrants.

Note 1: A marriage celebrant is a person registered under Subdivision C of Division 1 of Part IV of the *Marriage Act 1961*: see subsection 5(1) of that Act.

Note 2: Under paragraph 39I(1)(b) of that Act, if the Registrar of Marriage Celebrants is satisfied that a marriage celebrant has not complied with an obligation under section 39G of that Act, including this Code of Practice, the Registrar may take disciplinary measures against the marriage celebrant.

2 HIGH STANDARDS OF SERVICE

A marriage celebrant must maintain a high standard of service in his or her professional conduct and practice. This includes (without limitation) ensuring the following:

- (a) appropriate personal presentation for marriage ceremonies;
- (b) punctuality for marriage ceremonies;
- (c) accuracy in preparation of documents and in the conduct of marriage ceremonies.

3 RECOGNITION OF SIGNIFICANCE OF MARRIAGE

A marriage celebrant must recognise the social, cultural and legal significance of marriage and the marriage ceremony in the Australian community, and the importance of strong and respectful family relationships.

4 COMPLIANCE WITH THE ACT AND OTHER LAWS

A marriage celebrant must:

- (a) comply with the requirements of the *Marriage Act 1961* and the *Marriage Regulations 2017* which apply to the marriage celebrant; and
- (b) observe the laws of the Commonwealth and of any State or Territory in which the marriage celebrant solemnises marriages; and
- (c) avoid unlawful discrimination in the provision of marriage celebrancy services.

5 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MARRIAGE CEREMONIES

A marriage celebrant must respect the importance of the marriage ceremony to the parties and the other persons organising the ceremony. This includes (without limitation) the following:

- (a) giving the parties information and guidance to enable them to choose or compose a marriage ceremony, including information to assist the parties to decide whether a marriage ceremony rehearsal is needed or appropriate;
- (b) respecting the privacy and confidentiality of the parties, including by:
 - (i) arranging for appropriate facilities to interview parties; and
 - (ii) dealing appropriately with personal documents and personal information; and
 - (iii) maintaining appropriate facilities for the secure storage of records; and
- (iv) ensuring the return of all personal documents belonging to the parties as soon as practicable (unless it is necessary to keep the documents for the ceremony);
- (c) giving the parties information about how to notify the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department of any concerns or complaints they may have regarding the marriage services provided by the marriage celebrant.

6 KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS SERVICES

A marriage celebrant must:

- (a) maintain an up-to-date knowledge about appropriate family relationships services in the community; and

- (b) inform the parties to the marriage about the range of information and services available to them to enhance, and sustain them throughout, their relationship.

Complaint against a marriage celebrant

If you need to make a complaint about a Commonwealth-registered marriage celebrant, you should consider:

- whether you can settle the matter directly with the celebrant
- whether your complaint is within the three month period to lodge a complaint, you can request an extension by emailing marriagecelebrantssection@ag.gov.au
- whether you have read the factsheet *Marriage Celebrants Programme- Complaints* process available at www.ag.gov.au/marriage, which outlines the complaints process, including the remedies available and the types of complaints they can deal with
- that you have completed the correct complaints form (available online) at www.ag.gov.au/marriage
- that refunds are not available by lodging complaint

If you need to make a complaint about a minister of religion for a recognised denomination, you will need to write to the registry of births, deaths and marriages in your state or territory.

If you require assistance with preparing your complaint, email the Attorney-General's Department at marriagecelebrantssection@ag.gov.au or contact them by phone.

The Registrar of Marriage Celebrants
Marriage Law and Celebrants Section
Attorney-General's Department
3-5 National Circuit
BARTON ACT 2600

Marriage education services

The list includes all agencies and organisations in receipt of Commonwealth Attorney- General's Department grants towards their Marriage and Relationship Education Programs.

Location	Name	Phone Website
National	Relationships Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1300 364 277 • www.relationships.org.au/
Vic	Family Relationships Institute Inc. Melbourne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 03 9354 8854 • http://relatewell.org.au
ACT	Relationships Australia (Canberra & Region)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1300 364 277 • http://www.relationships.org.au
NSW	Interrelate (Family Life Movement), Sydney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1300 473 528 • https://www.interrelate.org.au
QLD	Centacare, Brisbane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1300 236 822 • https://centacarebrisbane.net.au
NT	Goodluck Consultancies, Darwin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 08 8981 0064 • http://www.goodluckconsultancies.com.au
SA	Relationships Australia (SA & Region)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1300 364 277 • http://www.relationships.org.au
WA	People in Harmony (Wesley Mission) Perth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 08 6103 4222 • http://www.perthunitingchurch.org.au
TAS	Centacare, Hobart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1300 236 822 • https://centacarehobart.net.au