

## **Procedure for a civil marriage**

(Names of the bride and bridegroom)

You have come before me today to be joined in marriage. I wish to remind you of the deep significance of the commitment you are making to one another in choosing to live together in matrimony. By entering into marriage, you are promising to stand by and support each other for better or for worse, in prosperity and adversity.

However, you are promising each other more than that:

Marriage involves a pledge to love and be faithful to one another. Vowing to love each other for the rest of your life is the most difficult promise you can make to another person. It requires your setting high standards for your life together, and it requires your sincere desire to strive to achieve these standards, now and in the years to come. That is the promise that you are making to one another today.

When you enter into marriage, you become one, but you also remain two independent, equal individuals. There is no contradiction between love and unity on the one hand, and freedom and autonomy on the other. Love also means showing respect for one another.

It is my privilege, but also my duty under the law to impress upon you the importance of the promise you are now making to one another.

And now, (the solemnizer says to the bride) I ask you first, (the full name of the bride):

Do you take (the full name of the bridegroom), who is standing at your side, to be your lawfully wedded husband?

(When the bride has replied in the affirmative, the solemnizer says to the man):

And do you, (the full name of the bridegroom), take (the full name of the bride), who is standing at your side, to be your lawfully wedded wife?

(When the bridegroom has replied in the affirmative, the solemnizer says):

As you have promised each other - in the presence of witnesses - to live together in matrimony, I now pronounce you man and wife.