

How do you begin your wedding with a ceremony that will set the tone for the rest of your special day?

Your wedding day formally begins with the ceremony.....

Traditionally, it's the first time you see your betrothed, although often these days the couple arrive together or have already had some "first look" photos taken. Whatever your plan is, the ceremony will be the first time your guests see you on your wedding day. You want it to be memorable so you can set the tone for the rest of your wedding day by beginning with a ceremony that reflects your unique style as a couple.

The legal requirements take just a few minutes, so there is lots of scope for adding some personal ideas. The average ceremony usually lasts for 15- 20 mins, but of course it can be longer or shorter if you wish- it's your day!

You'll want to at least consider the following ideas as you make your plans....

- Music
- Vows
- Readings
- Rituals

I can help you with ideas so you can plan the ceremony you want. As well as explaining the legal requirements for a lawful marriage I will explain some of the creative and imaginative alternatives you might want to consider if the standard ceremony format is not for you.

I have resources gathered while officiating at more than 700 ceremonies over the past 10 years and can explain and demonstrate rituals, share some examples of wording your vows, and talk about involving your family members, children and guests.

If you want to write your own vows but you're not sure how- you can use my cheat sheet.

If you have special guests or family you want to acknowledge and include, we can devise unique and special ways to include them.

If you have your heart set on capturing a perfect image during your ceremony we will work with your photographer to make it happen.

Over the page is a very basic ceremony outline to get you started, remember you don't have to stick to it on your wedding day, we can make it happen your way. Visit my website for details or call me on 0419 394 844 if you'd like to meet to discuss your ceremony plans

Leanne Smith

A Basic Ceremony Outline

Introduction

Your celebrant will welcome your guests on your behalf and speak a little bit about the principles and belief surrounding marriage.

A Reading (optional) your choice of verse or prose. You might want to include an acknowledgement of special people who aren't present to share your special day.

The Monitum (legal requirement)

Giving Away (optional)

Traditionally, the Father of the Bride gives the bride away, you might want to include the Mother of the Bride too, or have another special person involved. The words might be more about offering family support for both the partners. Sometimes all the guests can be invited to express their support for your decision.

The Asking (optional)

A formal question in relation to intentions. This is the "I DO"

Vows (essential)

The words need to acknowledge a lifelong and exclusive commitment between the two becoming partners.

Giving or Exchange of Rings (optional)

Usually followed by words to seal the exchange of rings

A Second Reading (optional) your choice of verse or prose

A Ritual (eg. Sand blending, handfasting, wine toast, unity candle)

Followed by...

Declaration and embrace (Kiss the Bride)

Signing of the Register and Certificate (with your two witnesses)

Introduction of the Married Couple

Congratulations from guests