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# CIVIL MARRIAGE SERVICE PACKAGE

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Township of Blandford-Blenheim



# Civil Marriage Services Information

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## Applicant Check List

- Contact Township Office to schedule a pre-ceremony meeting with the officiant
- Complete the Pre-Ceremony Information Questionnaire (to follow upon booking)
- Complete the Booking Agreement form (to follow upon booking)
- Obtain a valid marriage licence in Ontario. For information, contact the Township office
- Pay all required fees in accordance with this package (see page 2)
- Choose vows for your civil marriage ceremony (see page 3)
- Determine a location for the ceremony.
- Make arrangements for two witnesses.
- If required, please make arrangements for an interpreter for the ceremony.
- Arrange for any music, videographer, photographer and decorations.

## About the Service

Civil marriage ceremonies last up to 30 (thirty) minutes, depending on the vows chosen. The service time booked would be approximately one (1) hour to allow for photo opportunities and use of an interpreter if required.

A request for a civil marriage ceremony must be received a minimum of 14 days prior to the date of the ceremony. Applicants are required to complete the Civil Marriage Questionnaire and pay the appropriate fee at the Town office.

Two witnesses are required during the ceremony. Witnesses must be at least 14 years old and speak English, or have a translator present.

It is the Applicants' responsibility to provide an interpreter if they do not speak English and/or require language assistance. The interpreter cannot be one of the witnesses. The interpreter shall be required to sign a form confirming that he/she has interpreted the wedding ceremony.

The officiant has the authority to refuse to perform a marriage ceremony if anyone in the wedding party (being the bride, groom and witnesses) appears to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

## Location

Wedding Ceremonies are conducted in the Council Chambers, which is located at 47 Wilmot St. S., Drumbo. Ceremonies are conducted Monday to Friday between 9:30am and 3:30pm. Ceremonies will not be conducted on days that Township Council meets (usually the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month).

The Council Chambers will only be made available for a maximum of one hour per ceremony.

Music will be permitted at certain times throughout the ceremony. When selecting the type of music, consideration should be given to its appropriateness and contribution to the dignity of the occasion. Music and an audio device must be supplied if you wish to have music at the ceremony.

A maximum of 20 guests (not including the wedding party) can be accommodated in the Council Chambers should this location be used for a civil marriage ceremony.

No candles, confetti, rice, or bubbles are allowed in the Council Chambers or on municipal property.

## Fees

Council Chambers	\$250 (+HST)
Marriage Licence	\$100 (no HST)

A deposit of \$100.00 is payable at the time of booking. Payments are accepted by cash, cheque or debit.

Changes to date and/or time are permitted at no additional charge, provided the location and officiants are available and the request is received a minimum of two business days prior to the originally scheduled date and time. An administration fee of \$50.00 will be applied should the Ceremony be cancelled prior to the scheduled date. No refund will be issued if the Ceremony is cancelled on the day of the Ceremony, or the Applicant(s) fail to appear for the Ceremony.

## Details

- A Marriage Licence is required by the officiant.
- Two witnesses are required for the ceremony.
- The officiant may not perform any type of religious ceremony as per the Ontario Marriage Act which requires civil ceremonies to be “non-denominational”
- Registration of the marriage is completed by the marriage officiant when the wedding is over.
- You may request a marriage certificate 12 weeks after the marriage occurs.
- Ceremony wording can be altered, to a degree.
- Couples may write their own vows, the Officiant requires couples to repeat the affirmations required by the Marriage Act of Ontario either before or after personal vows.

# Marriage Ceremony

See marriage ceremony samples below. Officiant's words are in bold.

## Marriage Ceremony – Sample 1 (Short Version)

**We are gathered together to witness the formal joining of (person 1) and (person 2) in legal matrimony according to the custom and law prevailing by the Government of the Province of Ontario.**

**Officiant to Person 1: Repeat after me, please:**

I do solemnly declare//that I do not know//of any lawful impediment//why I may not be joined in matrimony// to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Officiant to Person 2: Repeat after me, please:**

I do solemnly declare//that I do not know//of any lawful impediment//why I may not be joined in matrimony// to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Please turn to one another and take each other's hands.**

**Officiant to Person 1: Repeat after me please**

I call upon these persons here present// to witness that I \_\_\_\_\_//do take you \_\_\_\_\_// to be my lawful wedded (wife/husband/spouse/partner).

**Officiant to Person 2: Repeat after me please**

I call upon these persons here present// to witness that I \_\_\_\_\_//do take you \_\_\_\_\_// to be my lawful wedded (wife/husband/spouse/partner).

**Officiant to the Person 1:**

**Do you have the ring(s)? This ring is a symbol of your marriage, a symbol of your love and of your life together. Please place it on the third finger of (Person 2's) left hand repeating after me.**

With this ring, I thee wed.// I shall love, honour and cherish you// this ring shall be//the symbol of my love.

If a double ring ceremony the **Officiant to the Person 2:**

**This ring is a symbol of your marriage, a symbol of your love and of your life together. Please place it on the third finger of (Person 1's) left hand repeating after me.**

With this ring, I thee wed.// I shall love, honour and cherish you// this ring shall be//the symbol of my love.

**I, Sarah Matheson, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Marriage Act, do**

hereby pronounce you (state names of persons be married) to be husband and wife (or married).

You may now kiss.

Proceed to sign the register with witnesses, then announce the couple.

## **Marriage Ceremony – Sample 2 (Longer Version)**

This couple has come here today to be joined in marriage.

(Person 1) and (person n) have invited us to share in this celebration as they affirm their love before us, pledge their faith to one another and enter in the joys and privilege of marriage. Love is one of the highest experiences we human beings can have, it adds depth of meaning to our lives. Marriage symbolizes the intimate sharing of two lives. This sharing must not diminish but enhance the individuality of each partner. A happy marriage is one which is continually developing while growing in understanding of the other person. By growing together in love, it is possible to share not only the joys of life but the burdens of sorrow as well.

(Person 1) and (person 2), your marriage is intended to join you in a relationship so intimate and personal, it will change your whole being. It offers you the hope and indeed the promise of a love that is true and mature.

To attain such love, you will have to commit yourselves to each other freely and gladly for the sake of a richer and deeper life together.

**(Officiant) to Person 1: Repeat after me, please:**

I do solemnly declare//that I do not know//of any lawful impediment//why I may not be joined in matrimony// to \_\_\_\_\_.

**(Officiant) to Person 2: Repeat after me, please:**

I do solemnly declare//that I do not know//of any lawful impediment//why I may not be joined in matrimony// to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Please turn to one another and take each other's hands.**

**Officiant to Person 1: Repeat after me please**

I call upon these persons here present// to witness that I \_\_\_\_\_//do take you \_\_\_\_\_// to be my lawful wedded (wife/husband/spouse/partner).

**Officiant to Person 2: Repeat after me please**

I call upon these persons here present// to witness that I \_\_\_\_\_//do take you \_\_\_\_\_// to be my lawful wedded (wife/husband/spouse/partner).

**Officiant to the Person 1:**

**Do you have the ring(s)? This ring is a symbol of your marriage and a symbol of your love and of your life together. Please place it on the third finger of (person 2's) left hand repeating after me.**

With this ring, I thee wed.// I shall love, honour and cherish you// and this ring shall be//the symbol of my love

If a double ring ceremony the **Officiant to the 2<sup>nd</sup> person:**

**This ring is a symbol of your marriage and a symbol of your love and of your life together. Please place it on the third finger of (person 2's) left hand repeating after me.**

With this ring, I thee wed.// I shall love, honour and cherish you// and this ring shall be//the symbol of my love

**(Person 1) & (person 2), seek from within yourselves the serenity to accept the things you cannot change, the courage to change the things that you must and the wisdom to know the difference. Live each day, one day at a time and truly enjoy your time together. Seek the wisdom of experience, learning all that you can from each other. Accept hardships as the building blocks of experience while realizing that accepting both the good and bad are simply a part of being alive and strive to make as many things right as is humanly possible during your life together.**

**I, Sarah Matheson, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Marriage Act, do hereby pronounce you \_\_\_\_\_ and you \_\_\_\_\_ to be husband and wife (or married).**

**You may now kiss.**

**Proceed to sign the register with witnesses, then announce the couple.**