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## Optional Marriage Ceremony

The officiant of an Optional Marriage Ceremony will recite these words when he or she marries two individuals.

**Solemnizer:**

We are gathered at this place for the purpose of joining in the legal state of matrimony (this man and this woman / these two people), under the authority given and provided by the Government of the Province of Ontario.

Marriage is not to be entered upon thoughtlessly or irresponsibly but with a due and serious understanding and appreciation of the ends for which it is contracted.

Therefore, if there is anyone present who can show just cause why these two persons may not be lawfully joined together in matrimony, they should now declare it or hereafter remain silent.

**Repeat (Each participant in turn):**

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

**Repeat (Each participant in turn):**

I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I, \_\_\_\_\_, do take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my lawful wedded (wife/husband/spouse/partner), to have and to hold, from this day forward. For better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, so long as we both shall live.

**Rings:**

Place the ring on his/her finger, hold it there and say these words to her: This ring I give in token of the covenant made this day between us.

**Solemnizer:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, by the virtue of the powers vested in me by the Marriage Act, do hereby pronounce you \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to be (husband and wife / married as partners in life).