



**That Celebrant Guy**

LOVE IS LOVE

*The Ceremony Planning Guide*



**Thanks again for letting me be a part of your wedding. Together, we'll build the ceremony you are after!**

**My suggestion is to put some time aside, maybe over dinner one night or a glass of wine, and have a real discussion on your wedding. Brainstorm and write down ideas, and we can go through them together.**

**I want to remind you that this is all about the two of you, so anything you do/don't want for your ceremony (outside the legal obligations) is completely up to you! Your imagination is the limit!**

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# THE LEGAL STUFF

Here is the guide to the legal side of the ceremony. The below are in numbered in the order they must be.

## PRIOR TO THE CEREMONY

#1-Notice of Intended Marriage	Filled out at least 1 month prior to the ceremony.
#2-Declaration of No Legal Impediment	Filled out either at the rehearsal (if you choose to have one) or on the day of the ceremony, prior to starting.

## THE CEREMONY

WELCOME/GREETING FROM CELEBRANT #3- This is where I introduce myself and state the reason I am here	“My name is Steven Fleming and I am here today duly authorised by law, to solemnise marriages in Australia according to the law.” or words to that effect
#4- MONITUM	This is the legal definition of marriage in Australia. The statement I need to make is: “Before you are married in my presence, and in the presence of these witnesses, I must remind you of the solemn and binding nature of the relations ip you are about to enter. Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of two people, to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.” or words to that effect
#5-VOWS	“I call upon the people here present to witness that I, AB/CD, take you, CD/AB, to be my lawful wedded wife/husband/spouse.” or words to that effect
#6- SIGNING OF CERTIFICATES	Certificates to be signed in front of 2 witnesses

That’s it! Not too much too it is there?

## MAKING IT YOURS

*Now that you understand the legal requirements, let's start thinking about making this ceremony your own.*

*I like to look at the wedding ceremony, no matter how big or small, a bit like a play or movie. It has a beginning, a middle and an end, and should take the guests on a journey. Rather than just decide the points you want to hit, let's ask some questions about what you want to see on the day, and we can craft around them. The below isn't so much a question and answer sheet, but talking points for the two of you to figure out how you want your day to go. Once you figure out the things you would like to include, we can work together to put it into a ceremony that flows and works. Remember, there is no right or wrong way to do this, there are no silly or stupid ideas, and there are no silly or stupid questions. I am here to help :)  
So let's start at the beginning...*

### **How do you want things to start?:**

- Will there be one party waiting at the end of the aisle while another comes to meet them (Traditionally the Groom waiting at the altar, the bride accompanied down the aisle)?
- Will both parties enter the ceremony at the beginning?
- Will they enter together? Or separately?
- Will anyone be accompanying either party (Dad to accompany as traditionally)?
- Will you have Grooms people/Brides people? Will they enter at the beginning as well?
- Is there a special song you would like played to set the mood?

### **Once you are both at the altar: This is where the celebrant would usually introduce themselves to start the ceremony.**

- Is there anything you would like said? Any special mentions or thanks?
- Would you like to include a Welcome to Country - an acknowledgement of the traditional custodians of the land?
- Would you like the celebrant to tell the tale of your relationship? How you met/ got together and ended up here?
- Would you prefer the celebrant to say some nice words on love and marriage in general?
- Is there a tone you would like set? Formal? Lighthearted? Funny? A mix?
- Is there someone in your lives you would like to speak?
- Is there a poem or reading you would like said? Who do you see doing this reading, the celebrant, a friend/ family member?
- Is there more than one reading/poem?
- Will you have music playing in the background?
- Are there any cultural traditions or elements from either party you would like to include?
- Is there a symbolic ritual that you would like to do? An exchange of rings? Sand mixing ceremony? Unity candle? When would you like to do this?
- Are you going to stick with the minimum legal vows, or add to them? Will you write your own?
- Would you like to do some 'I DO'S'?
- Would you like to be pronounced a married couple after the vows, and before the certificate signing? How would you like to be pronounced? (Husband and Wife/ Wife and Husband/ Husband and Husband/ Wife and Wife/ A married couple/ a cute couple name you make up yourselves [i.e.Brangelina])
- Who would you like to witness the signing of your marriage certificates?

- Once the certificates are signed, would you like to be introduced as a married couple for the first time? How would you like to be introduced?
- Will you proceed back down the aisle? Will there be music playing?

## A 'TRADITIONAL' CEREMONY

*Below is a 'traditional' style wedding ceremony I have recently written for a couple. This is just an example as to how the ceremony could run, but in no way a standard outline. Also, it is worth noting that the language used is for a heterosexual couple, and can be adjusted accordingly to your preferences and identity as a couple.*

Peter [SURNAME] & Stephanie [SURNAME]			
Date/Time:	10-MARCH-2018/ 2:00pm	Location	[LOCATION], Victoria

2:00pm	10 Minute Warning
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Good Afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen. The ceremony will begin shortly, if you would please make your way to your seats.

2:05pm	Peter and his groomsmen to make their way to the front
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2:10pm	The Procession: Song- ?
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The bridesmaids will walk down individually, followed by Stephanie, accompanied by her father Christopher. Once they make their way to the altar, Peter will step forward to 'receive' Stephanie. Christopher will then make his way to his seat

### The Ceremony

Family, friends and loved ones. We have gathered here on this beautiful property to celebrate the love of Peter [SURNAME]& Stephanie [SURNAME], and also with the promise of an open bar and a free meal.

My name is Steven Fleming, and I am here today duly authorised by law, to solemnise marriage in Australia according to the law.

This marriage today is not the beginning of a relationship, but rather the recognition of a union of two souls entwined, two hearts that beat as one, and their promise to continue this union for the rest of their lives. Stephanie and Peter met each other not through drunken passion, or a dating app, no, their relationship is one that was built on friendship which developed over time into love, and the strength of this has bound them so tightly, that any who meet them could never deny that they are two halves made whole.

Now given how nervous these two are up here, we are going to power right on through. Peter and Stephanie have asked Peter's sister Kiah to come forward to read for us a piece on soulmates. Kiah, would you join us?



Kiah's Reading	<p>A Soulmate. It's like a best friend, but more. It's the one person in the world that knows you better than anyone else. It's someone who makes you a better person, well, actually they don't make you a better person...you do that yourself because they inspire you. A soulmate is someone who you carry with you forever. It's the one person who knew you, and accepted you, and believed in you before anyone else did or when no one else would. And no matter what happens..you'll always love them.</p>
<p>Thank you Kiah.</p> <p>Now to the serious stuff. Peter, Stephanie, before you are married in my presence and the presence of these witnesses, I must remind you of the solemn and binding nature of the relationship into which you are about to enter. Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of two people, to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.</p> <p>The vows you speak today not only bind you in the eyes of the law, but also represent a promise you make to one another, from your heart to theirs.</p> <p>Peter, as you place the ring on Stephanie's finger, will you speak your vow to Stephanie.</p>	
Peter's Vow	<p>I call upon the people here present to witness, that I, Peter [MIDDLE] [SURNAME], take you, Stephanie [MIDDLE] [SURNAME], to be my lawful wedded wife.</p> <p>I vow to choose you, every day, over and over, in good times and bad.I promise to hold your heart tenderly and protect it fiercely.</p> <p>I've seen your kindness and your strength.</p> <p>It is overwhelming, but in a heartbeat, you show me in everything that you do there is no question, you are my soulmate.</p>
<p>Stephanie, as you place the ring on Peter's finger, will you speak your vow to Peter</p>	
Stephanie's Vow	<p>I call upon the people here present to witness, that I, Stephanie [MIDDLE] [SURNAME], take you, Peter [MIDDLE] [SURNAME], to be my lawful wedded husband.</p> <p>I vow to choose you, every day, over and over, in good times and bad.I promise to hold your heart tenderly and protect it fiercely.</p> <p>I've seen your kindness and your strength.</p> <p>It is overwhelming, but in a heartbeat, you show me in everything that you do there is no question, you are my soulmate.</p>
<p>Peter, Stephanie, it is my absolute honour to pronounce you man and wife.</p>	
<p>The Kiss</p>	
<p>Stephanie and Peter would like to invite _____ and _____ to witness the signing of the certificates and the marriage register.</p>	
<p>The Signing of the register and certificates: Song??</p>	
<p>It gives me great pleasure to be the first to introduce you to Mr/Mrs and Mrs/Mr [SURNAME]/ The Married Couple</p>	
<p>The Recession: Song ?</p>	

## WRITING YOUR VOWS

*Below are some different styles of vows. You can use these as inspiration, cut and paste, swap and steal to take them as is, whichever feels right for you. You also have the option of if you'd like to each say the same thing or pick separate ones for each of you to speak.*

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I take you to be my partner in life and my one true love. I promise to love you more each day than I did the day before, to protect you and guide you for the rest of my life. Your love for me has grown unconditionally and today I commit the rest of my life to you as a best friend and soulmate. I will always be there through the good and bad times, I commit this day and the days ahead of our lives as long as I am here with you. I give you my hand, my heart and my love, from this day forward, forever.

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You are my first love and only love. You are my person, my best friend and the love of my life. You bring out the best in me and you teach me how to be the best version of myself. I will always be honest with you, support you and be kind, caring and forgiving. I choose you to spend my life with and I will forever love and treasure you with my whole heart.

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I give you my hand, my heart, my love and my kindness, from this day forward for as long as we both shall live

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I take you to be my partner; to have and to hold, from this day forward. I give to you my unending love and support. I promise to be true to you and to share my hopes and dreams with you. I look forward to spending the rest of my life with you, my best friend.

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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, until we are parted by death.

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I promise to love, respect, and trust you, and give you the best of myself, for I know that together we will build a life far better than either of us could imagine alone.

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You are my best friend. I promise to laugh with you, cry with you, and grow with you. I will love you when we are together and when we are apart.

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Loving what I know of you, trusting what things I will discover. I will respect you as a person, a partner, and an equal.

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I promise to support your dreams and to respect our differences, and to love you and be by your side through all the days and nights of our lives.

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What I possess in this world, I give to you. I will keep you and hold you, comfort and tend you, protect you and shelter you, for all the days of my life.

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I love you unconditionally and without hesitation. I vow to love you, encourage you, trust you, and respect you. As a family, we will create a home filled with learning, laughter, and compassion.

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[NAME], I stand here before you with no reservations, today I marry the person for whom I have the utmost respect and love.

I promise to love you, celebrate you and your achievements, be your biggest fan and personal cheer squad. To support you in times of need and to always be in your corner. I'll continue to challenge you as you challenge me to be my best. Together we face the world side by side, hand in hand. I'm am proud to become your loving partner, excited to discover what comes next in our lives and thrilled that our everyday will be together on this adventure. You are my forever, my best friend, my dream come true, my shoulder to lean on, my everything.

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I promise to always tell you the truth. You will never have to guess what I'm thinking or my motives as I will always tell you honestly.

I promise to always listen to you. Even when I don't agree with you, I will listen and try to see things from your point of view.

I promise to always have your back. Whenever you need me, I'll be there in your corner. Whatever happens, we'll face it together.

I promise to always be patient with you. I will be your port in the storm. Lean on me whenever and however you need.

Finally, I promise to always love you. You are the love of my life. My best friend. My everything. No matter how our life changes, this will remain the same. You and I, forever.





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I promise you my loyalty; that I will always work towards the best interests and goals of the team we are cementing here today.

I promise you my support; that I will spare no time, effort or attention in making sure you can take on any challenge to which you – or we – aspire.

I promise you my honesty and vulnerability; that I will never hold back in talking to you even – in fact, especially – when it gets crazy inside my head.

I promise you my fidelity; that I will be here when things are easy, and when we have to dig deep, in happiness and in grief, and through all the seasons in between.

Encompassing it all, I promise you my love; that I undertake these vows eagerly and with gratitude for the opportunity to spend the rest of my life with you.

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