

Sample Wedding Ceremony

Focus: Personal commitment, elopement ceremony among daughter and doggos

Hi everyone, let's get started: We are here to celebrate you, _____ & _____, your commitment to each other, to the life and family you have created together, and to honor the meaning that this marriage holds within your own life narratives. The decision to get married is deeply personal, and is the act of unifying some facet of one's own identity with another person for the rest of our lives. Such a decision requires boldness, commitment, and enduring love, and it is evident that you care for each other in a way that only a partner can, and for your daughter as caring, committed, unified parents.

There are many ways to describe love. The reason, meaning, and importance of it has been a question humanity has tried to answer for as long as we have existed. In Pablo Neruda's 17th sonnet, he wrote a summary of what it was like to share a life with the person he loved: "I love you without knowing how, or when, or from where, I love you directly without problems or pride: I love you like this because I don't know any other way to love, except in this form in which I am not nor are you, so close that your hand upon my chest is mine, so close that your eyes close with my dreams." Marriage requires love and friendship for you partner throughout all the things that you may experience in this life: it is meaningful and difficult and wonderful.

_____ & _____, as you stand in front of me today, do you commit yourselves to the compassion, kindness, honesty, and respect that this union has required in its development and will continue to require for the rest of your lives? ("we do")

_____, do you take _____, to have and to hold, for better or worse, in sickness and in health, in times of prosperity and times of need, until death do you part? (I do)

_____, do you take _____, to have and to hold, for better or worse, in sickness and in health, in times of prosperity and times of need, until death do you part? (I do)

As your relationship evolves, as you grow and change, as you feel and fill the spaces you find within yourselves throughout your lives, as you reach the stars you've tracked with your mind's eye, may you find love, peace, and warmth in this marriage. May you find in this partnership all the things that you seek, and all of the things that surprise you, lighten your heart, and bring you joy.

It is my pleasure to pronounce you, from this day forward, under the authority of the State of North Carolina and the American Humanist Association, husband and wife. You may now kiss the bride!