

# ***Your Civil Partnership in Edinburgh***

Your Civil Partnership ceremony would normally follow the structure below.

This can be personalised through the selection of options detailed within.

You will find a form at the rear of the booklet which relates directly to each section of the ceremony, please detach this form & return if applicable.

**Welcome / Introduction**

**Identification**

***Reading (if chosen)***

**Definition of partnership**

**Paperwork preliminaries**

***Reading (if chosen)***

**Consent to vows**

**Vow**

**Exchange of Rings**

**Signing**

**Pronouncement**

Readings, poems etc. may be chosen by you for a guest or guests to read.

Religious content is permissible but cannot be delivered by the Registrar

## Welcome / Introduction

### Usual Wording

Good morning/afternoon and welcome to .....*venue's name*.....

My name is ..... and I have been authorised by the Registrar General for Scotland to conduct Civil Partnership registrations in the District of Edinburgh.

We are here today to witness and celebrate the partnership of ..... and .....

Through their words during this ceremony they shall be entering into a commitment with one another and, through your presence as witnesses and guests you will be expressing your support for them. The signing of the Civil Partnership schedule at the close of this ceremony, once a verbal commitment has been made, will complete the legalities of this special day.

### Optional Wording

- A:** May I ask you as .....’s escort\* that you do consent to this union taking place? Thank you, would you please also be seated.  
(\*father / brother / mother etc)
- B:** May I ask you to confirm, you are ..... and as a legal witness to this partnership, that you do consent this union taking place?
- C:** Civil partnership is a defining moment in any couples life; a sign of the depth of their commitment to each other and an important occasion , which we’ve been invited to share with them
- D:** Family and friends, we welcome you today to witness the civil partnership of ..... & ..... . You have been part of, and contributed to, their lives and by sharing today with them you will be part of their future.
- E:** Welcome to the civil partnership of ..... & ..... . Today is a special day for them as they will join together as civil partners supported by those who care for them. Your presence here as they affirm a life commitment to each other signifies your importance in their lives.
- F:** If your venue or date has any particular significance to you and you wish to incorporate this into your ceremony, please provide these details when completing the form at the rear of this booklet.

## Identification

### Usual Wording

Before I proceed with this civil ceremony I shall now ask both the parties to confirm their identities in my presence and in the presence of their witnesses.

..... *can you now confirm that you are* .....

..... *can you now confirm that you are* .....

Today's proceedings shall be carried out in accordance with the Civil Partnership Act 2004. Under this particular act, to enter in to a registered Civil Partnership, ..... & ..... are not required to make specific declarations. They have however each chosen to make a public vow which will show their true and mutual consent to the partnership. The wording of which they have chosen themselves as words that have a special meaning to them and which they wish to share before you all.

### Optional Wording

**A:** Further words close to the heart of our couple shall come from readings selected by them for ..... & ..... to say shortly.

**B:** In addition to the words which our couple wish to say today, ..... & ..... have also chosen some words to share with us shortly.

## Definition of partnership

### Usual Wording

..... & ....., it is my duty to remind you of the binding character of the declaration you are about to make, civil partnership according to the law of this country is the voluntary union of two people, for the duration of their lives, to the exclusion of all others.

### Optional Wording (multiple or merged options are acceptable)

- A:** A successful partnership is one where each partner discovers that it is better to give love than to receive it. To truly love another person is to wish that person to develop and flourish in his or her own terms.
- B:** Civil Partnership joins two people who trust the love they have found. It is a partnership in which each can grow and be true to themselves, whilst sharing in the development of each other. It is a statement to all those around them, of something the two of them already know, that they have found such love friendship and support that they want to share the rest of their lives together.
- C:** Civil Partnership is more than words or ceremony. It is a commitment to be reaffirmed each and every day. You can make your relationship a living thing. It will be you who begin every day making choices. To express caring or avoiding it; to reveal love or to be too busy; to acknowledge respect and to take joy from one another or build walls; and through those daily choices, to renew the vows you will make today.
- D:** Partnership means making a commitment to each other, it means developing and maintaining affection, co-operation, friendship and mutual respect.  
It calls for honesty, patience, trust and humour. It requires both closeness and distance, the closeness of a couple growing together and sufficient distance to allow each other to grow as an individual.
- E:** In civil partnership you give of yourself freely and generously into the hands of the one you love. The trust you share is a precious gift to be treasured. Today you are affirming your love for each other, acknowledging that you are stronger together than you are apart and that you wish to share all life's joys and challenges together.
- F:** Partnership is a precious gift, a lifelong dedication and a daily challenge. Look for the best in each other, let your love be stronger than your anger and remember that true friendship is the basis for a lasting relationship.

## Definition of Partnership continued

**G:** Partnership respects that you are two separate people with different ideas and dreams. You don't belong to each other but with each other. It means sharing your good fortunes as well as the bad, conquering any problems and facing life together with confidence in your love for each other.

**or**

**H:** Your own words drafted on what partnership means to you both

## Paperwork preliminaries

### Usual Wording

To be here today, you have been required to lodge written notice of your intention to record your partnership with my office. This notice period is now complete and no impediments have been found to exist.

Your names and intention have been displayed for the statutory period within my office and you will be pleased to hear, that no objections have been lodged.

The legalities complete ..... and ..... now wish to affirm their relationship in a formal and public pledge, offering each other the security that comes from a binding promise, sincerely made and faithfully kept.

### Optional Wording

**A:** Your own drafted words – This is an ideal section of the ceremony to share a story with your guests of how you both met, your first date or perhaps of the proposal.



# Consent to Declarations

## Usual Wording

We are not here simply as an audience today, the presence of all of you to witness this event is important to ..... and .....

Also we are not present to hear recited words, we are here to listen to the making of a sincere pledge.

..... are you ready without reservation to make your vow to .....

..... are you ready without reservation to make your vow to .....

## Optional Wording

**A:** It is at this stage of the ceremony that I must ask you, are you both ready, without reservation, to make your vow to each other?

**B:** ....*making of a sincere pledge* which, contains vows which ..... and ..... have composed themselves to exchange at this moment in their lives.

**C:** The ceremony provides an opportunity to bring together friends and family in one place to bestow the message of love and commitment and for everyone to celebrate the happiness of the happy couple.

**D:** ....., will you ask ..... if he/she will be your life long partner  
i.e. "*will you be my partner and let me love you for the rest of our lives?*"  
....., will you ask ..... if he/she will be your life long partner  
i.e. "*will you be my partner and let me love you for the rest of our lives?*"

**E:** Your own drafted wording, consenting to proceed to the declarations

## Vow

### Usual Wording

..... please make this vow to .....

I solemnly and sincerely promise / that I .....accept you .....  
/ as my lawful civil partner / to the exclusion of all others

..... please make this vow to .....

I solemnly and sincerely promise / that I .....accept you .....  
/ as my lawful civil partner / to the exclusion of all others

### Optional Wording

(would be added to vow – multiple/merged options acceptable)

- A:** I promise to Love, Honour and Respect you / In Sickness and in Health for Richer for Poorer / For Better for Worse / And upon this Promise, I will base our relationship
- B:** Before these witnesses, this is my promise /  
To treasure and take care of the special love we have together /  
To grow with you and respect your ideas and expressions /  
To always talk with you / and share our happy times and our sad times
- C:** I promise loyalty and friendship /  
And to love you with all that I am and all that I can /  
This I promise you from the depths of my heart and mind /  
For all our life together
- D:** Do you promise that you will always protect this woman/man with your utmost care / That you will honour and cherish her/him in sickness and in health / For richer for poorer and in all things you will be to her/him faithful and loving?
- E:** .....will you love honour and cherish ..... in good times and in bad / do you promise to stay true to her/him for the rest of your lives?
- F:** I promise to be honest with you / to be sensitive to your needs / to support and love you / and cherish you always / I choose to spend my life with you
- G:** Your own vows drafted personally and delivered to one another without repeating after the registrar. Prompt cards/written notes are recommended. A copy of your vows should be submitted in advance for our information.

**The “I do” alternative**

If you are nervous about speaking before your guests and anticipate the repetition of the vows will be a problem for you, the Registrar could read the declarations to you in the form of a question, to which you may answer simply “I do”.

**Additional ceremony elements**

Should you wish to incorporate traditional elements such as unity candles, unity sand blending etc to your ceremony please discuss this with the Registrar in advance.



# Exchange of Rings

## Usual Wording

Their verbal commitment made to each other, our couple have chosen to give and receive ring(s) as a symbol of the union they now enter.

..... place the ring over ..... finger and repeat after me

This ring is given / as a token of the vow / I have made here today

..... place the ring over ..... finger and repeat after me

This ring is given / as a token of the vows / I have made here today

## Optional Wording (multiple or merged options are acceptable)

- A:** Traditionally, the passage to the status of being in a Civil Partnership is marked by the exchange of rings. These rings are a symbol of the unbroken circle of love freely given, they like your love has no beginning and no end. May these rings always remind you of the vow you have made to each other.
- B:** I give you this ring as a sign of our union /  
All that I am, I give to you / All that I have, I share with you /  
For the whole of our life together
- C:** I give you this ring / as a token of my love /  
and as a symbol of our union today
- D:** I give you this ring as a symbol of my love /  
Let it be a reminder that I am always by your side /  
As I join my life to yours as your friend and partner
- E:** With this ring I offer you my hand my heart and my love always
- F:** This ring is given as a pledge of my everlasting love for you
- G:** As a circle these rings know no end. May your love for each other be endless and may the rings remind you of today and the joy you feel in this moment.
- or**
- H:** Your own drafted wording, to use at the ring exchange



# Signing / Pronouncement

## Usual Wording

You have now both made a solemn promise which must be sealed with the legality of signing the Civil Partnership Schedule. Please join me for the signing.

By virtue of the promises you have both made in my presence and in the presence of your witnesses.

I have pleasure in pronouncing you registered civil partners.

You may kiss.

## Optional Wording

- A:** I have pleasure in pronouncing you registered civil partners from this day onwards - You may kiss.
- B:** By virtue of your vows and signing, in my presence as an authorised Registrar/Assistant Registrar and before these witnesses, I declare you ..... and you ..... are now registered civil partners in accordance with law.  
You may kiss
- C:** May your home be a haven and your relationship be truthful and honest. May all your hopes be fulfilled and your life together be one of love and contentment.
- D:** Today we celebrate your union. May you have each others love unconditionally for the rest of your lives.
- E:** May the challenges life throws at you make your partnership stronger. May you always be each others best friend and greatest love.
- or
- F:** Your own drafted wording, to use at the pronouncement.



## Your Civil Partnership Ceremony in Edinburgh

Name \_\_\_\_\_ & Name \_\_\_\_\_

Venue \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Please complete and return with your Civil Partnership Notice Forms if possible, but not less than **14 days** prior to your ceremony, only if you wish to make additions/amendments.*

### Welcome / Introduction

A:  B:  C:  D:  E:

F: Your own wording

### Identification

A:  B:

### Definition of partnership (multiple or merged options are acceptable)

A:  B:  C:  D:  E:  F:  G:

H: Your own wording

### Paperwork preliminaries

A: Your own wording

Continued overleaf /

## Consent to Declarations

A:  B:  C:  D:

E: Your own wording

## VOW (multiple or merged options are acceptable)

A:  B:  C:  D:  E:  F:

G: Your own wording

The "I do" Alternative

Additional  
elements

Please state

## Exchange of Rings (multiple or merged options are acceptable)

A:  B:  C:  D:  E:  F:  G:

H: Your own wording

## Signing / Pronouncement

A:  B:  C:  D:  E:

F: Your own wording

