

# YOUR CEREMONY GUIDE

A friendly guide to leading the couple's celebration.

Being asked to lead a ceremony is a real honour — and you don't need to be an expert to do it beautifully. Keep it high-level, put it in your own words, and let your love for the couple do the rest.

## START HERE — THE GOOD NEWS

- ✓ The legal marriage happens privately with Shelley a couple of days beforehand.
- ✓ No legal wording to stick to. Make it personal, warm and completely theirs.
- ✓ So this is the **celebration**, not the legal bit — nothing to sign on the day.
- ✓ A lovely length is around **20–30 minutes**.

## 01 // BEFORE THE DAY

- Chat with the couple about the tone they want — relaxed, funny, emotional, or a mix.
- Ask what they'd love included: their story, a reading, a ritual, anyone to mention.
- Write it in your own words, then read it aloud a few times. It should sound like you talking, not a speech.
- Print it in a large, clear font, number your pages, and keep a spare copy.
- Confirm who's running the music and agree on your cues — a simple nod works.
- Check the microphone or speaker, and where you'll stand.

## 02 // ON THE DAY — SETTING UP

- Arrive early and check in with the coordinator, or whoever's keeping things on track.
- Take your place at the front; the couple's people gather where they're meant to be.
- Remind parents and VIPs to sit where they'll get the best view for photos.
- Phone on silent, water nearby, and take a breath — you've got this.

## 03 // THE RUNNING ORDER

A simple, tried-and-true flow. Take what fits and make it yours.

### 1 PRE-CEREMONY WELCOME

A minute or two before you start, warmly settle everyone in.

Quick housekeeping: phones on silent, personal photos until after, finish drinks, move forward to fill the front rows, and use any shade provided.

## **2 THE ENTRANCE**

Cue the music. Bring in whoever's part of the entrance, in the order the couple chose.  
Invite guests to stand for the person making the special entrance.

## **3 WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Greet everyone and thank them for being there.  
Set the tone — today is a celebration of the two of them.

## **4 THEIR STORY**

Share how they met and the moments that shaped them.  
Keep it warm and personal — a little humour is always welcome.

## **5 A READING OR RITUAL (optional)**

A friend or family member could share a short reading.  
Or include a symbolic ritual — a handfasting, candle, or something meaningful to them.

## **6 A FEW WORDS ON LOVE & COMMITMENT**

In your own words, say something about the two of them and what their commitment means.

## **7 PERSONAL VOWS**

Each shares their own vows — their words, from the heart. These are personal promises, so there's no set wording (the formal legal vows are done privately with Shelley).  
Agree beforehand who goes first, and have their vows printed as a backup in case nerves hit.

## **8 EXCHANGE OF RINGS**

Invite them to exchange rings. A simple line each as they place the ring works beautifully:  
**"I give you this ring as a symbol of my love."**

## **9 THE KISS & CELEBRATION**

They're already legally married, so keep this joyful rather than a legal declaration:  
**"It's my absolute joy to celebrate this couple — you may kiss!"**

## **10 THE SEND-OFF**

Announce the couple to cheers and cue the music. They walk back down together, then everyone gathers for photos.  
Confetti tip: aim for the sky, not their faces!

#### FIVE THINGS TO CARRY WITH YOU

- 01** Speak slower than feels natural, and look up at the guests.
- 02** If you get emotional, just pause and breathe — everyone is on your side.
- 03** It doesn't need to be perfect. It needs to be personal.
- 04** When in doubt, keep it short and sweet.
- 05** This is their day, and they chose you — that says everything.

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## A NOTE FROM SHELLEY

If you'd like a second set of eyes on your draft, or you're unsure about anything at all, the couple are welcome to reach out to me. Have the very best time up there — you're going to be wonderful.

— Shelley, The Shelleybrant · [www.theshelleybrant.com.au](http://www.theshelleybrant.com.au)