



## CIVIL CELEBRANT

### VOW OF LOVE

Hi, my name is Megan Summers and it is with great honour that I offer you my services.

Firstly I would like to whole-heartedly acknowledge this decision you have made. A decision to take a 'Vow of Love' through ceremony. To take this vow is to make a mutual commitment to one another. This ceremony not only honours your love but also your deep friendship and your loyalty to one another.

When you take a 'Vow of Love' it is a recognition of your love for one another. It is important that you know that this ceremony is not legally binding, as such it is not officially recognised by the Australian Government. It is a personal ceremony only, one that acknowledges your love for one another and your commitment to one another.

When you are planning your ceremony you will need to consider how you would like the ceremony to proceed. Ceremonies often include stories, poetry, music and rituals that are an expression of your love for each other and that are special to you both. I have included an example ceremony structure, five poems, three songs and two rituals as examples for you to browse on the pages that follow. You may wish to include some of these, none of these, or include your own.

The ceremony can be as detailed or simple as you would like to make it.

If you have any questions or are unsure about anything please don't hesitate to contact me.

I am here to help in any way that I can to make this occasion memorable.

Xx Megan



## CIVIL CELEBRANT

### CEREMONY STRUCTURE

#### **HOUSE KEEPING**

The beginning of the ceremony will be announced. This is also the time to let everyone know if you have any requests: e.g. mobile phones off; photos to be taken/not taken during the ceremony.

#### **PROCESSIONAL**

You may be present or choose to enter at this stage. A song may be played or a poem read to mark the start of the ceremony.

#### **WELCOME**

On your behalf words of gratitude for attendance can also be spoken here and a pronouncement of the purpose of your ceremony spoken.

#### **READINGS**

Stories, poems, literature or memories you would like to share can be read at different times through out the ceremony, however at this point the most significant are read.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Special people in your life may be acknowledged here.

#### **PERSONAL VOWS**

Your vows are a reflection of your love for one another. They are a verbal acknowledgement of your commitment and express your deepest intention.

#### **RITUAL**

You may wish to include a ritual, they can add depth and meaning to your ceremony. Example rituals are: Lighting a Unity Candle; Coloured Sand Ceremony; Sharing of Wine: and a Hand Fastening, just to name a few. You can find more information about these fun and meaningful additions to a ceremony online.

#### **PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE**

A certificate can be presented to you and your partner as a remembrance of this day.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The ceremony can conclude with a reading or song and a few words of reflection. At this point you may wish to direct guests



## CIVIL CELEBRANT

### MUSIC, POETRY & LITERATURE

While we are all familiar with the importance of music at a ceremony, you may not have considered poetry and literature. I have included a few poems for you to consider how this could enhance your ceremony.

#### LOVE

~ ROY CROFT ~

I love you, not only for what you are, but for what I am when I am with you.

I love you, not only for what you have made of yourself, but for what you are making of me.

I love you for the part of me that you bring out;

I love you, for putting your hand into my heaped-up heart and passing over all the foolish, weak things that you can't help dimly seeing there,  
And for drawing out into the light all the beautiful belongings that no one else had looked quite far enough to find.

I love you because you are helping me to make of the lumber of my life not a tavern but a temple.

Out of the works of my every day not a reproach but a song.

I love you because you have done more than any creed could have done to make me good. And more than any fate could have done to make me happy.

You have done it without a touch, without a word, without a sign.

You have done it by being yourself. Perhaps that is what being a friend means,  
after all.

#### ON LOVE

~ THOMAS A KEMPIS ~

Love is a mighty power, a great and complete good.

Love alone lightens every burden, and makes rough places smooth.

It bears every hardship as though it were nothing, and renders all bitterness sweet and acceptable.

Nothing is sweeter than love, nothing stronger, nothing higher, nothing wider, nothing more pleasant, nothing fuller or better in heaven or earth; for love is born of God.

Love flies, runs and leaps for joy. It is free and unrestrained. Love knows no limits, but ardently transcends all bounds.

Love feels no burden, takes no account of toil, attempts things beyond its strength.

Love sees nothing as impossible, for it feels able to achieve all things.

It is strange and effective, while those who lack love faint and fail. Love is not fickle and sentimental, nor is it intent on vanities.

Like a living flame and a burning torch,

it surges upward and surely surmounts every obstacle.

PHONE: 0431 843 073 EMAIL: [INFO@MEGANSUMMERS.AU](mailto:INFO@MEGANSUMMERS.AU)

WEBSITE: [MEGANSUMMERS.AU](http://MEGANSUMMERS.AU)



## CIVIL CELEBRANT

### UNTITLED

~ ROBERT INGERSOLL ~

Love is the only bow on life's dark cloud. It is the morning and the evening star.  
It shines upon the cradle of the babe, and sheds its radiance upon the quiet tomb.  
It is the mother of art, inspirer of poet, patriot, and philosopher.  
It is the air and light of every heart, builder of every home, kindler of every fire on every hearth.  
It was the first to dream of immortality. It fills the world with melody, for music is the voice of  
love.

Love is the magician, the enchanter that changes worthless things to joy,  
and makes right royal kings and queens of common clay.  
It is the perfume of the wondrous flower -- the heart.  
And without that sacred passion, that divine swoon, we are less than beasts;  
but with it, Earth is heaven  
and we are gods.

### I CARRY YOUR HEART WITH ME

~ E.E. CUMMINGS ~

i carry your heart with me (i carry it in  
my heart)i am never without it(anywhere  
i go you go, my dear; and whatever is done  
by only me is your doing, my darling)  
i fear  
no fate(for you are my fate, my sweet)i want  
no world(for beautiful you are my world, my true)  
and it's you are whatever a moon has always meant  
and whatever a sun will always sing is you  
here is the deepest secret nobody knows  
(here is the root of the root and the bud of the bud  
and the sky of the sky of a tree called life; which  
grows  
higher than the soul can hope or mind can hide)  
and this is the wonder that's keeping the stars apart  
i carry your heart (i carry it in my heart)

### TRANSFORMING POWER

~ LAUTZU ~

Your love contains the power  
Of a thousand suns.  
It unfolds as naturally and effortlessly  
As does a flower,  
And graces the world with its blooming.  
Its beauty radiates a transforming energy  
That enlivens all who see it.  
Because of you, compassion and joy  
Are added to the world.  
That is why the stars sing together  
Because of your love.

PHONE: 0431 843 073 EMAIL: [INFO@MEGANSUMMERS.AU](mailto:INFO@MEGANSUMMERS.AU)

WEBSITE: [MEGANSUMMERS.AU](http://MEGANSUMMERS.AU)



## CIVIL CELEBRANT

### RITUAL

Rituals can add depth and a personal touch to your ceremony. This will often take place after the vows and before the ring exchange. Here are some examples:

Hand Fastening; Sharing of Wine; Lighting of a Unity Candle; Sand Ceremony; Flower Ceremony; Jumping the Broom; Bell Ringing; and Ring Warming; to name just a few.

#### HAND FASTENING

Originating as a Celtic Commitment Ceremony, hand fastening symbolises the tapestry of two lives being woven together as one. The cord that is used to bind your hands together can be simple or extravagant, it is of your choosing.

This lovely ceremony can be combined with your vows or you may wish to include traditional wording. For example: These are the hands that will support you in all that you do., these are the hands that will love you tenderly, these are the hand that will hold you and lessen your pain in times of grief. The vows are a reflection of your love and are personally adapted by you.

#### THE UNITY CANDLE CEREMONY

Traditionally the parents of the couple will each light a candle, these two candles will then be used to light a single 'Unity Candle'. This ceremony honours the coming together of two lives and two families.

Alternatively, the couple can choose to light the candle and may like to include others.

It is a tranquil and symbolic gesture that creates a fragrance of peace and tranquility.

#### SHARING OF WINE

A simple gesture is to share a glass of your favourite wine. A symbol of a shared life.

The style of ritual you choose is very personal and the possibilities are limitless. If you have something different in mind, speak to me and let us see if we can make it happen!



## CIVIL CELEBRANT

### FINAL NOTE

It is of the utmost importance that you keep me up to date with the format you wish to have in place at your ceremony. It is essential that you communicate any changes you would like to make to the ceremony.

I will do everything in my power to make this day the most perfect day.

Please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for considering me as your Celebrant.

MEGAN SUMMERS