



CIVIL CELEBRANT

NAMING CEREMONY INFORMATION

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 the decision you have made to celebrate new life with a 'Naming Ceremony'. To celebrate with a 'Naming Ceremony' is to make a promise of love, protection, sacrifice and devotion. It is to honour this new life with the intention to of being the best guardian you can be for this child.

This ceremony can give vision and purpose to yourself, and also if you choose to invite others, to your family and your friends as well. Your commitment as guardian is the one true blessing this child has. It is not about wealth, nor is it about possessions, but it is about presence. To be present to your child's needs, to their strengths and their weaknesses. To guide them in life to be the best they can be no matter the circumstance.

When you are planning your ceremony you will need to consider how you would like the ceremony to proceed. A 'Naming Ceremony' will often include the child's God-parents, so if you have some people in mind be sure to talk to them about how they might like to be involved. Ceremonies also often include stories, poetry, music and rituals that are an expression of your love and your intention, individually, as a family or as a community. They may be read by me, by you, by the God-parents and by family members or friends. It is lovely to include others.

To help you plan, I have included a possible ceremony structure with example poems, songs and rituals for you to browse. You may wish to include all of these, some of these, or none.

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 I can.

Xx Megan



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CEREMONY STRUCTURE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

INTRODUCTION

You may be present or choose to enter at this stage. A song may be played or a poem read, I will then introduce myself as your celebrant.

WELCOME

On your behalf all guests will be welcomed and a pronouncement of the purpose of the ceremony given.

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 and in the life of the child may be acknowledged here.

PROMISES

Promises to your child are made by you and/or those who are playing an important part in your child's life. Grandparents, godparents, brothers and sisters may read something they feel is meaningful. It could be something written personally, a song, poem or piece of literature.

RITUAL

A ritual could be placed here. Rituals can add depth and meaning to your ceremony.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE

A lovely certificate will be presented to you and your child as a remembrance of this day.

CONCLUSION

The ceremony can conclude with a reading, song or a few words of reflection. Word of gratitude for attendance can also be spoken here. At this point you may wish to direct everyone to refreshments.



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MUSIC, POETRY & LITERATURE

All very personal choices, these add depth and meaning to your ceremony. If you are unsure do a search on the internet, look up something like "songs for Baby Naming's". Try not to get overwhelmed, just choose something that is meaningful for you.

I have included a few poems for you to consider how poetry could enhance your ceremony.

OH, THE PLACES YOU'LL GO!

~AN EXTRACT FROM DR SEUSS~

Congratulations!
Today is your day.
You're off to Great Places!
You're off and away!

You have brains in your head.
You have feet in your shoes
You can steer yourself
any direction you choose.
You're on your own. And you know what you know.
And YOU are the guy who'll decide where to go.

You'll look up and down streets. Look 'em over with care.
About some you will say, "I don't choose to go there."
With your head full of brains and your shoes full of feet,
you're too smart to go down any not-so-good street.

And you may not find any
you'll want to go down.
In that case, of course,
you'll head straight out of town.

It's opener there
in the wide open air.

Out there things can happen
and frequently do
to people as brainy
and footsy as you...

'A MESSAGE FOR MY CHILD',

~JESSICA WESOLEK~

I wish that I could show you
all the things that I have seen.
I wish that I could take you
everywhere that I have been.
I wish that I could indicate
the places where I fell,
And keep you, thus, from tripping
on those "rougher" spots as well.
I wish that I could do all this
and save you from the strife.
But I know that I'd be sparing you
the lessons of your life.
And you must learn those lessons
as hard as that may be,
Just know that you will always have
a helping hand from me.

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BABY'S EYES

~EDITH WILLIS LINN FORBES~

My baby's eyes! What light they hold;
What wonderful hints of wealth untold;
Of lands where the flowers never die,
Of tropic lands where the sunbeams lie,

On diamond fields and hills of gold.
My baby's eyes! There are hints in these
Of wonder-land's glory, of sunny seas;
Of ice-capped mountains and fields of snow;
Of twilight shadows and moonlight glow,
And the hidden springs of mysteries.

There are hope and faith and glad surprise,
And depths where latent passion lies;
Sky-touching heights of peace and light,
And rushing rivers of wild affright;
And gleams of heaven in baby's eyes.

A WEE BIT OF HEAVEN'

~HELEN STEINER RICE~

A wee bit of heaven
drifted down from above-
A handful of happiness,
a heart full of love.

The mystery of life,
so sacred and sweet-
The giver of joy
so deep and complete.

Precious and priceless,
so lovable, too-
The world's sweetest miracle,
baby, is you.

I LOVED YOU FROM THE VERY START'

~UNKNOWN~

I loved you from the very start,
You stole my breath, embraced my heart.
Our life together has just begun,
You're part of me my little one.

As mother with child, each day I grew,
My mind was filled with thoughts of you.
I'd daydream of the things we'd share,
Like late-night bottles and teddy bears.
Like first steps and skinned knees,
Like bedtime stories and ABC's.

I thought of things you'd want to know,
Like how birds fly and flowers grow.
I thought of lessons I'd need to share,
Like standing tall and playing fair.

When I first saw your precious face,
I prayed your life be touched with grace.
I thanked the angels from above,
And promised you unending love.

Each night I lay you down to sleep,
I gently kiss your head and cheek.
I count your little fingers and toes;
I memorise your eyes and nose.
I linger at your nursery door,
Awed each day I love you more.

Through misty eyes, I dim the light,
I whisper, "I love you" every night.
I loved you from the very start,
You stole my breath, embraced my heart.

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RITUALS

There are many fun and meaningful rituals that can be added to your Ceremony. Rituals can deepen the meaning of the ceremony and give you the opportunity to include others.

A few rituals you could include are:

Tree Planting; Coloured Sands; Treasure Box; Petals; or Lighting a Candle.

Here are a couple of examples:

SAND CEREMONY

A Sand Ceremony is a fun ritual that kids and adults enjoy alike. Quite simply, a selection of coloured sands are added to a special glass vessel. Each sand represents a quality that you would like to help manifest in your child's life.

For example: green could mean harmony; blue, honesty; violet, intuition; red, vitality; orange, creativity; and yellow, fun. You can add just a few colours or as many as you like.

A TREASURE BOX

In this lovely ceremony you ask everyone to bring a little something special to put in a little box. It could be a poem, a stone, a photo or some other trinket that has some meaning to the giver or to the child. At a later date, perhaps when the child reaches a significant age, the box can be given to your child.

Here are a few questions to help you decide what sort of ceremony you would like. You may like to write your answers down and email them to me.

What made you decide to have a naming ceremony for your child?

What do you see as being your main role? What does that entail?

How would you like to support this child to be the best that they can be?

Are there any special memories you would like to share?



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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