

[SAMPLE]

MARRIAGE CEREMONY

Officiant: Dearly beloved, we are gathered together to join together this couple in marriage. Marriage is not to be entered into lightly or unadvisedly. This marriage will be recognized by the State of Tennessee. If there is any person here who can show just cause why these two persons may not be lawfully joined in marriage, I require you to make it known. *(Pause)*

Officiant: Do you (*applicant 1*) come here freely, willingly and not under duress and is it your desire and intent to enter into a legally binding marriage?

Applicant 1's Response: Yes.

Officiant: Do you (*applicant 2*) come here freely, willingly and not under duress and is it your desire and intent to enter into a legally binding marriage?

Applicant 2's Response: Yes.

Officiant: Do you (*applicant 1*), take (*applicant 2*) to be your lawfully wedded spouse, to love and to cherish, to have and to hold, and do you promise to forsake all others as long as you both may live?

Applicant 1's Response: I do.

Officiant: Do you (*applicant 2*), take (*applicant 1*) to be your lawfully wedded spouse, to love and to cherish, to have and to hold, and do you promise to forsake all others as long as you both may live?

Applicant 2's Response: I do.

Officiant: Please join right hands. (*applicant 1's name*), repeat after me:

I, (<i>name of applicant 1</i>)	(<i>applicant 1 repeats</i>)
Take thee (<i>name of applicant 2</i>)	(<i>applicant 1 repeats</i>)
To be my lawful spouse	(<i>applicant 1 repeats</i>)
To have and to hold	(<i>applicant 1 repeats</i>)
From this day forward	(<i>applicant 1 repeats</i>)
For better, for worse	(<i>applicant 1 repeats</i>)
For richer, for poorer	(<i>applicant 1 repeats</i>)
In sickness and in health	(<i>applicant 1 repeats</i>)
To love and to cherish	(<i>applicant 1 repeats</i>)
So long as we both shall live.	(<i>applicant 1 repeats</i>)

Officiant: (*applicant 2's name*), repeat after me:

I, (<i>name of applicant 2</i>)	(<i>applicant 2 repeats</i>)
Take thee (<i>name of applicant 2</i>)	(<i>applicant 2 repeats</i>)
To be my lawful spouse	(<i>applicant 2 repeats</i>)
To have and to hold	(<i>applicant 2 repeats</i>)

From this day forward
For better, for worse
For richer, for poorer
In sickness and in health
To love and to cherish
So long as we both shall live.

(applicant 2 repeats)
(applicant 2 repeats)

(If there is a Ring):

Officiant: *(applicant 1)*, do you have a ring?

Applicant 1's Response: Yes.

Officiant: *(applicant 1's name)*, place this ring on the hand of your spouse to be, and repeat after me:

(applicant 2's name), take this ring
As a token of my constant love
And abiding devotion.

(applicant 1 repeats)
(applicant 1 repeats)
(applicant 1 repeats)

Officiant: *(applicant 2's name)*, do you have a ring?

Applicant 2's Response: Yes.

Officiant: *(applicant 2's name)*, place this ring on the hand of your spouse to be, and repeat after me:

(applicant 1's name), take this ring
As a token of my constant love
And abiding devotion.

(applicant 2 repeats)
(applicant 2 repeats)
(applicant 2 repeats)

Officiant: *(applicant 1's name)*, do you freely accept *(applicant 2's name)* as your spouse?

Applicant 1's Response: Yes (or I do).

Officiant: *(applicant 2's name)*, do you freely accept *(applicant 1's name)* as your spouse?

Applicant 2's Response: Yes (or I do).

Officiant: Inasmuch as you have consented together in wedlock, and have witnessed the same before this company, by the authority vested in me as a *(officiant's office)* and by the laws of the State of Tennessee, I now pronounce you legally wed.