

# Melissa Haley

## Civil Celebrant

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## Wedding Information Kit

### **Congratulations on your engagement!**

I'm so excited that you have chosen me to be a part of your special day! I am looking forward to helping you plan the most amazing, exciting and memorable day that will truly represent the beginning of your married life.

As your celebrant I am committed to providing you with a unique, creative and enjoyable wedding experience. Your ceremony should reflect the innate personal qualities and values of the two individuals who are coming together into one family unit. To achieve this, I work closely with you to understand your goals, values and aspirations to craft a ceremony that will reflect the couple, their beliefs and wishes for their special day.

As a member of your team what do I bring to the event? I have a great sense of fun and adventure; and I love the opportunity to meet, greet, and get to know new and different people. I utilise differing perspectives so that I can create something totally unique for you... that suits you to a tee! As a teacher, tertiary educator and life coach I am well equipped to in public speaking and communication to connect with people of all ages to ensure your ceremony is both well planned, scripted and executed.

### **The purpose of the ceremony...**

The intent behind any wedding ceremony is the spoken promise before witnesses which states that two individuals plan to enter into a lifelong commitment with each other. This spoken commitment allows a celebrant to pronounce them as a married couple. However a wedding ceremony also tells the story so far... Wedding ceremonies highlight your best memories and set the narrative you intend to build for your future together recording the moment in time so that it can be savoured and celebrated down the track.

There are three basic elements within the promises made to each other during a marriage ceremony. The promise is lifelong, that the relationship between the parties is exclusive, and that their relationship will be built around a foundation exceptional care for one another.

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### The structure of the wedding ceremony

The basic structure of a wedding ceremony is as follows (order can be altered but sections marked \*\* are compulsory):

- Housekeeping
  - Processional (or Bridal March).
  - Welcoming
  - The giving away
  - Introduction.
  - Readings.
  - \*\* Monitum/ Legal. From the Marriage Act and said appropriately by the Celebrant in accordance with s46 Marriage Act. Subject to subsection 2 before a marriage is solemnised by or in the presence of an authorised celebrant, not being a minister of religion of a recognised denomination, the authorised celebrant shall say to the parties, in the presence of the witnesses, the words:
    - "I am duly authorised by law to solemnize marriages according to law."*
    - "Before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of these witnesses, I am to remind you of the solemn and binding nature of the relationship into which you are now about to enter."*
    - "Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of two people to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life"...or words to that effect.*
- Please refer to Guidelines on the Marriage Act 1961 for Marriage Celebrants' before making changes.
- The asking
  - \*\*Legal Vows Section 45 Marriage Act. This is often called the 'Declaration of Marriage' which is a public declaration to everyone. Both the parties to the marriage must say, as per s45
    - "I call upon the persons here present to witness that I, A.B. (or C.D.), take thee, C.D. (or A.B.), to be my lawful wedded wife (or husband) (or spouse)"* or words to that effect.
- Please read Guidelines on the Marriage Act 1961 for Marriage Celebrants before making any changes to this wording.
- Personalised Vows
  - Ring Ceremony
  - The Pronouncing
  - Signing of the Register
  - Optional ritual section
  - Conclusion/Summing up or Blessing
  - Presentation to family and friends
  - Recessional

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### Some Ceremony Ritual Options...

Rituals symbols and customs personalise the ceremony and reflect the couple as a united family. The mandatory components limit the ability to be creative the addition of these other parts is significant to creating the best day of the couple's lives.

They also create a longer timeframe for the ceremony and can increase audience participation and engagement.

When the couple would like to	Use this ritual or practice
Include parental participation	Give a blessing or give parties away
Acknowledge parents	Bride and Groom thank parents in ceremony
Involve children	Flower girl, page boy, ring bearer
Blend families	Sand ceremony
Symbolise the forming of two becoming one	Unity Candle
Acknowledge traditional custodians of the land	Acknowledgement of country

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**Some examples of songs, quotes, rituals and poems that can be used for a wedding as your starting point:**

Poems	
<p><b><u>This Marriage</u></b>            May these vows and this marriage be blessed.            May it be sweet milk,            this marriage, like wine and halvah.            May this marriage offer fruit and shade            like the date palm.            May this marriage be full of laughter,            our every day a day in paradise.            May this marriage be a sign of compassion,            a seal of happiness here and hereafter.            May this marriage have a fair face and a good name,            an omen as welcomes the moon in a clear blue sky.            I am out of words to describe            how spirit mingles in this marriage.            BY Rumi            retrieved <a href="https://hellopoetry.com/poem/75711/this-marriage/">https://hellopoetry.com/poem/75711/this-marriage/</a></p>	<p><b><u>The Wedding Singer</u></b>            "I want to make you smile whenever you're sad            Carry you around when your arthritis is bad            All I want to do is grow old with you            I'll get your medicine when your tummy aches            Build you a fire if the furnace breaks            Oh it could be so nice, growing old with you            I'll miss you            Kiss you            Give you my coat when you are cold            Need you            Feed you            Even let you hold the remote control            So let me do the dishes in our kitchen sink            Put you to bed if you've had too much to drink            I could be the man who grows old with you            I want to grow old with you."            –Robbie</p>
<p><b><u>"If I Should Fall Behind" by Bruce Springsteen</u></b>            "We said we'd walk together baby come what may            That come the twilight should we lose our way            If as we're walking a hand should slip free            I'll wait for you            And should I fall behind            Wait for me            We swore we'd travel darlin' side by side            We'd help each other stay in stride            But each lover's steps fall so differently            But I'll wait for you            And if I should fall behind            Wait for me            Now everyone dreams of a love lasting and true            But you and I know what this world can do            So let's make our steps clear that the other may see            And I'll wait for you            If I should fall behind            Wait for me            Now there's a beautiful river in the valley ahead</p>	<p><b><u>"In My Life" by John Lennon</u></b>            "There are places I'll remember            All my life though some have changed            Some forever not for better            Some have gone and some remain            All these places have their moments            With lovers and friends, I still can recall            Some are dead and some are living            In my life, I've loved them all            But of all these friends and lovers            There is no one compares with you            And these memories lose their meaning            When I think of love as something new            Though I know I'll never lose affection            For people and things that went before            I know I'll often stop and think about them            In my life, I love you more            Though I know I'll never lose affection            For people and things that went before            I know I'll often stop and think about them</p>

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There 'neath the oak's bough soon we will be wed  
Should we lose each other in the shadow of the  
evening trees  
I'll wait for you  
And should I fall behind  
Wait for me  
Darlin' I'll wait for you  
Should I fall behind, wait for me"

In my life, I love you more  
In my life, I love you more"

### **"I Will Be Here" by Steven Curtis Chapman**

"Tomorrow morning if you wake up  
And the sun does not appear  
I...I will be here  
If in the dark we lose sight of love  
Hold my hand and have no fear  
Because I...I will be here

"Tomorrow morning if you wake up  
And the sun does not appear  
I...I will be here  
If in the dark we lose sight of love  
Hold my hand and have no fear  
Because I...I will be here

I will be here  
When you feel like being quiet  
When you need to speak your mind  
I will listen  
And I will be here  
When the laughter turns to crying  
Through the winning, losing and trying  
We'll be together  
Because I will be here

I will be here  
When you feel like being quiet  
When you need to speak your mind  
I will listen  
And I will be here  
When the laughter turns to crying  
Through the winning, losing and trying  
We'll be together  
Because I will be here

Tomorrow morning if you wake up  
And the future is unclear  
I...I will be here  
As sure as seasons are made for change  
Our lifetimes are made for years  
So I...I will be here

Tomorrow morning if you wake up  
And the future is unclear  
I...I will be here  
As sure as seasons are made for change  
Our lifetimes are made for years  
So I...I will be here

I will be here  
And you can cry on my shoulder  
When the mirror tells us we're older  
I will hold you  
And I will be here  
To watch you grow in beauty  
And tell you all the things you are to me  
I will be here

I will be here  
And you can cry on my shoulder  
When the mirror tells us we're older  
I will hold you  
And I will be here  
To watch you grow in beauty  
And tell you all the things you are to me  
I will be here

I will be true to the promise I have made  
To you and to the One who gave you to me"

I will be true to the promise I have made  
To you and to the One who gave you to me"

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### Quotes from Movies

#### Chasing Amy

"I love you. Very simple, very truly. You're the epitome of every attribute and quality I've ever looked for in another person...I can't stand next to you without wanting to hold you. I can't look into your eyes without feeling that longing you only read about in trashy romance novels. I can't talk to you without wanting to express my love for everything you are. I've never felt this before, and I like who I am because of it. There isn't another soul on this planet who's ever made me half the person I am when I'm with you. I'm forever changed because of who you are and what you've meant to me." –Holden

#### Stardust

"My heart, it feels like my chest can barely contain it. Like it doesn't belong to me anymore. It belongs to you. And if you wanted it, I'd wish for nothing in exchange – no gifts. No goods. No demonstrations of devotion. Nothing but knowing you loved me too. Just your heart, in exchange for mine." –Yvaine

#### Leap Year

"May you never steal, lie, or cheat, but if you must steal, then steal away my sorrows, and if you must lie, lie with me all the nights of my life, and if you must cheat, then please cheat death because I couldn't live a day without you." –Bride

#### Twilight

"It's an extraordinary thing to meet someone who you can bare your soul to, and who will accept you for what you are. I've been waiting, what seems like a very long time, to get beyond what I am. And [now] I feel like I can finally begin...No measure of time with you will be long enough. But let's start with forever." –Edward

#### Sleepless in Seattle

"It was a million tiny little things that, when you added them all up, they meant we were supposed to be together...and I knew it. I knew it the very first time I touched her. It was like coming home, only to no home I'd ever known. I was just taking her hand to help her out of a car, and I knew. It was like...magic." –Sam Baldwin

#### How I Met Your Mother

"But love doesn't make sense. You can't logic your way into or out of it. Love is totally nonsensical. But we have to keep doing it, or else we're lost and love is dead and humanity should just pack it in. Because love is the best thing we do."

"When you love someone you just...don't stop. Ever. Even when people roll their eyes or call you crazy. Even then. Especially then. You just you don't give up...If I could just, you know, take the whole world's advice and move on and find someone else, that wouldn't be love. That would be...some other disposable thing that is not worth fighting for. But that is not what this is." –Ted Mosby

#### Game of Thrones

"As you are the Moon of his life, he shall be your Sun and Stars. Your love shall be as ever present as those two celestial bodies...even though they are sometimes hidden from one another's sight. Your love will be the guiding force that charts the course of your tomorrows, holds your world together in difficult times, and will make life itself shine bolder and brighter than we human beings have a right to dream of." (Khaleesi and Khal Drogo's Wedding Vows)

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### Rituals

**Wine ceremony** - A single glass of wine drunk from by the couple after a reading about shared experiences

**Stone ceremony** - Each guest is given a stone and they write a wish for the couple on it. Stone are then placed in a jar as a memento

**Hand fasting** - Couples hands are tied together to symbolise "tying the knot"

**Time capsule** - wedding vows... wishes for the future anything from the day that can be opened on a set date in the future

**Unity candle** - two separate candles one for each party then light one candle symbolising the joining of two people into one

### Music - some modern examples

Walking down the Aisle:

**Marry You - Bruno Mars**

**Marry me - Train**

**Shallow - Lady Gaga & Bradley Cooper**

**A Thousand Years - Christina Perry**

**Endless Love - Diana Ross & Lionel Ritchie**

**All of me - John Legend**

**Truly Madly Deeply - Savage Garden**

**Amazed - Lonestar**

**Best Day of My Life - American Authors**

**Kissing you - Des'ree**

Signing the Documents

**Say you won't let go - James Arthur**

**Chasing Cars - Snow Patrol**

**Your Song - Rita Ora**

End of Ceremony Processional

**You're my best friend - Queen**

All Rounders

**Perfect - Ed Sheeran**

**Just the way you are - Bruno Mars**

**Rule the World - Take That**

**Incredible - Timomatic**

**Everything I do (I do it for You) - Bryan Adams**

**You're the Inspiration - Chicago**

**Glory of Love - Peter Cetera**

**Can't Help Falling In Love - Elvis**

### Music - some classical Examples

Cannon and Gigue in D

Pachelbel

Prelude from Cello Suite No 1

Bach

Ave Maria

Schubert

Arrival of the Queen of Sheba (from Soloman)

Handel

Prince of Denmark's March

Clarke

Wedding March

Mendelssohn

Clair de Lune

de Bussey

Fur Elise

Beethoven

Alleluia

Mozart

Ode to Joy

Beethoven