

## CIVIL MARRIAGE – EXAMPLE OF THE FORM OF CEREMONY

1 The registrar will stand, and say:-

**Registrar**

"My name is ..... In my capacity as [assistant] registrar for the district of ....., I have been appointed by the Registrar General for Scotland as a person authorised to solemnise civil marriages in accordance with the provisions of the Marriage (Scotland) Act 1977.

Before I proceed with this civil marriage ceremony, it is necessary that you should identify yourselves by answering the following questions:-

(To man)

"Are you [name] whose usual residence appears on this Marriage Schedule as .....?"

(To woman)

"Are you [name] whose usual residence appears on this Marriage Schedule as .....?"

2 The registrar will then say:-

**Registrar**

"We are now assembled here in order that I may solemnise your marriage in the presence of these witnesses in accordance with the law of Scotland.

I confirm that the requirements of that law preliminary to your marriage have been satisfied.

Before you, [name], and you, [name], are joined in marriage it is my duty to remind you of the binding character of the vows you are about to make. Marriage according to the law of this country is a union of one man with one woman, voluntarily entered into for life, to the exclusion of all others."

3 Everyone present will then be asked to stand. (Those unable to do so may continue seated).

**Registrar (to the man)**

"The legal impediments to marriage have already been explained to you. Please repeat the following declaration after me: 'I, [name], solemnly and sincerely declare that I know of no legal impediment to my marrying [name]'".

**Registrar** (to the woman)

"The legal impediments to marriage have already been explained to you. Please repeat the following declaration after me: 'I, [name], solemnly and sincerely declare that I know of no legal impediment to my marrying [name]'".

**Registrar** (to the man)

"Please repeat after me 'I solemnly and sincerely declare that I, [name], accept you, [name], as my lawful wife, to the exclusion of all others'".

**Registrar** (to the woman)

"Please repeat after me 'I solemnly and sincerely declare that I, [name], accept you, [name], as my lawful husband, to the exclusion of all others'".

4 If there is a wedding ring the registrar will proceed as in paragraph 5 and then as in paragraph 6. If there is no ring the registrar will immediately proceed as in paragraph 6.

5 The bridegroom will be asked at this point to place the ring on the bride's finger (normally the third finger of the bride's left hand, but not necessarily so). If the bride is giving a ring in exchange she may wish to place it on the bridegroom's finger at this stage also. Thereafter the registrar will say:-

"As a seal to the contract into which you are both entering, this ring is (these rings are) given and received".

6 **Registrar**

"Following the binding declaration which you have made before me in the presence of these witnesses, I hereby declare that you [name] and you [name] are now husband and wife".

7 The Registrar will then ask the company to sit down, explaining that the Marriage Schedule must be signed. The bridegroom will sign it first, followed by the bride (signing her pre-marriage surname) then by the registrar and the two witnesses. The witnesses' addresses, if not already appearing on the Schedule, will be entered.