**The Classic Civil Partnership Ceremony**

Good Morning/Afternoon ladies and gentlemen and welcome to \_\_\_\_.

My name is\_\_\_\_ and I am the Deputy Superintendent Registrar, I welcome you here today on this very special occasion.

Before we start may I ask you both to confirm your full names.

Ladies and Gentlemen the place in which we are now met has been duly sanctioned according to the law for the registration of civil partnerships. You are here to witness the formation of a Civil Partnership by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and if any person knows of any lawful impediment to this civil partnership they should declare it now.

Forming a Civil Partnership marks a commitment by two people to share themselves and their experiences with each other, and a willingness to accept each other for who they are. A Civil Partnership enables the love and respect that a couple have for each other to be complemented by a solemn and significant bond.

 \_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_ you have chosen to pledge yourselves to each other by committing to this legally binding contract and from the moment that you both sign the Partnership Schedule you will become a legal union of two people. This public pledge represents a promise of your life-long commitment to each other, in the presence of your family and friends / witnesses.

Civil Partnership should not be entered into lightly, but with respect, and the intention of sharing a life and future together.

(Optional: First reading here)

*Would you all please stand.*

We now come to the heart of the ceremony where \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_ declare that they know of no legal reason why they should not be joined as Civil Partners here today.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I am going to ask each of you in turn to repeat after me:

**I declare that I know of no legal reason why we may not register as each other’s civil partner. I understand that on signing this document we will be forming a civil partnership with each other.**

*(Optional:)* \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ - you have declared your freedom to form your civil partnership and now I am going to invite you make your own personal vow to one another. If you would like to face one another and join hands and repeat after me:

*(Or own personalised vow):* **From this day forward, I promise to share my life with you, to laugh with you, to be proud of you, to never take you for granted, to always take care of you and to be faithful to you. And I promise to love you for the rest of my life.**

(Optional: Second reading here)

(Optional:) We now come to the giving of the rings. This is the traditional way of sealing the contract and is the outward sign of the lifelong promises you have made. The circle of the wedding band has a special significance; it has no beginning or end, and is a symbol of eternity.

*Please take the ring and place it on the third finger of her/his hand, and repeat after me:*

**I give you this ring as a symbol of my endless love for you. All that I am and all that I have I bring to you. May this ring remind us of this moment and the commitments we have made today.**

May I ask you both to read the Partnership Schedule before signing, along with your witnesses.

*Signing by the couple and their witnesses.*

\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ you have both signed the declarations required by law to formalise the precious promises you have made to one another. We hope that this day will be a special day in your lives to remember with much joy and happiness. It therefore gives me great pleasure to announce that you are now Civil Partners together.

*You may now share a kiss*

Ladies and Gentlemen we have come to the end of our ceremony here today. On behalf of us all may I wish the couple a very long and happy partnership and many congratulations. So ladies and gentlemen, join me in a round of applause for \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_.