

## **Sand Ceremony**

(long version)

### **SOLOMNIZER:**

We are gathered at this place to witness the formal joining in the legal state of matrimony (this man and this woman/these two people), according to the order and custom prevailing, and under the authority given and provided by the government of the Province of Ontario.

This couple has come here today to be joined in marriage. The essence of this commitment is the taking of another person in his or her entirety as a lover, companion and friend. It is therefore a decision not to be entered into lightly but rather with great consideration and respect for both the other person and oneself.

(Optional Reading)

(Person #1) and (Person #2) have invited us to share in this celebration as they affirm their love before us, pledge their faith to one another and enter into the joys and privilege of marriage. Love is one of the highest experiences we human beings can have and it can add depth of meaning to our lives. The day-to-day companionship, the pleasure in doing things together or in doing separate things but exchanging experiences, is a continuous and central part of what two people who love each other can share.

(Optional Reading)

Marriage was established that two people might have life-long companionship, that natural instincts and affections might be fulfilled in mutual love and enjoy the security of family life, love and home. Marriage symbolizes the intimate sharing of two lives, while not diminishing but enhancing the individuality of the other partner. A happy marriage is one which is continually developing while

growing in understanding of the other person. By growing together in love, it is possible to share not only the joys of life but the burdens of sorrow as well. (Person #1) and (Person #2) your marriage is intended to join you in a relationship so intimate and personal; it will change your whole being. It offers you the hope and indeed the promise of a love that is true and mature. To attain such love, you will have to commit yourselves to each other freely and gladly for the sake of a richer and deeper life together.

(Optional Reading)

Now Ladies and Gentlemen, I would ask that if any person can show just cause why (Person #1) and (Person #2) may not be joined in marriage, let him or her speak now or forever hold their peace.

**REPEAT (Person #1)**

"I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, (Person #1) may not be joined in matrimony to (Person #2)."

**REPEAT (Person #2)**

"I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, (Person #2) may not be joined in matrimony to (Person #1)."

**REPEAT (Person #1)**

"I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I, (Person #1) do take you (Person #2) to be my lawful wedded (husband/wife/spouse/partner) to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or worse, for richer or poorer; in sickness and in health; in joy or in sorrow and to be faithful to you alone, for as long as we both shall live."

**REPEAT (Person #2)**

"I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I, (Person #2) do take you (Person #1) to be my lawful wedded (husband/wife/spouse/partner) to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or worse, for richer or poorer; in sickness and in health; in joy or in sorrow and to be faithful to you alone, for as long as we both shall live."

### **Sand Ceremony**

Now (Person #1) and (Person #2) have chosen to perform a sand ceremony to symbolize their single lives becoming one, to solidify the fact that they have chosen each other as partners, lovers and friends for life.

The white sand symbolizes the foundation of a good marriage.  
(SOLOMNIZER pours full cup of white sand into the vase)

The blue sand represents (Person #1) as an individual. ((Person #1) pours blue sand into vase)

I seal off (Person #1) as an individual with the white sand.  
(SOLOMNIZER pours half cup white sand into vase)

The pink sand represents (Person #2) as an individual. ((Person #2) pours pink sand into the vase)

I seal off (Person #2) as an individual with the white sand.  
(SOLOMNIZER pours half cup sand into the vase)

The mixing of the two sands represents the uniting of the individuals as one. ((Person #1) and (Person #2) both pour their sand at the same time into the vase).

You are now both united as one in life, love and friendship.

*Make provision for ring bearer*

These rings are a symbol of your marriage and a symbol of your life together.

**SOLEMNIZER to Person #1**

Please place the ring you have on the third finger of (Person #2)'s left hand, saying after me: "I ask you to receive this ring as a symbol of my love and as a constant reminder that I have chosen you above all others to be the one to share my life."

**SOLEMNIZER to Person #2**

Please place the ring you have on the third finger of (Person #1)'s left hand, saying after me: "I ask you to receive this ring as a symbol of my love and as a constant reminder that I have chosen you above all others to be the one to share my life."

I, (SOLOMNIZER), by virtue of powers vested in me by the Marriage Act, do hereby pronounce you, (Person #1) and (Person #2) to be (husband and wife/married as partners in life).

May you enjoy length of days, fulfillment of hopes, and peace and contentment of mind, as you day by day live and fulfill the terms of this covenant you have made with one another.

(Person #1), you may kiss the bride.

*(After signing the Register, Solemnizer announces)* May I introduce to you the married couple.