

**Non-religious  
Weddings and Other**

**Sample Marriage  
Ceremony: Steve**

**Sample Ceremony  
Continued**

**Sample Ceremony  
Continued**

# *Non-religious Weddings and Other Ceremonies*



**LLOYD HAWKEYE  
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**Marriage Commissioner  
Humanist Officiant**

We have an innate need to celebrate that pre-dates the emergence of organized religion. The birth of a child, the marriage of one's children and the passing of loved ones are all major events in our lives that we want to share with our family, friends and community. Lloyd is licensed as a marriage commissioner with the province of Saskatchewan and is authorized to perform marriages, funerals and other ceremonies by the Humanist Association of Canada.

## **Weddings**

Your wedding is one of the most special and significant ceremonies in your life. A secular ceremony can be both meaningful and dignified. Your commitment to each other can be made more complete if it involve words and rituals that represents what you really believe. It can take place in your own home or garden, a rented hall or room such as at a golf club or hotel, or in a public park or other special outdoor place. A

### Declaration of Intention

The elements highlighted in bold are required by the Province of Saskatchewan to be part of the ceremony. The other parts may be omitted or expanded upon, or other elements may be introduced into the ceremony if you wish.

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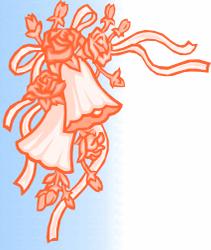
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# Sample Marriage Ceremony: Steve and Tanya



## Introduction

Tanya and Steve are in our midst today to allow us to participate in a celebration of their love. Theirs is a partnership freely chosen and founded on friendship, trust and respect; a relationship that encourages an enthusiasm for life and living. These individuals believe that they function better as a team. Each believes that the special qualities possessed by the other, brings about an ideal partnership.

## Address to the Couple

We all know that marriage is more than two people repeating vows. It certainly is more than a piece of paper. There is an art to any creative activity; so too in marriage.

Part of the art of marriage is finding room for things of the spirit. So to you two I say join together in your search for the good and the beautiful in this life.

Part of the art of marriage is being flexible. So in your marriage, cultivate flexibility, patience, understanding and a sense of humor. Most importantly, develop the capacity to forgive, and heal your differences day by day.

This ceremony today is a most serious covenant made before all of us as witnesses. From this relationship can come the nurture and strength you two need to face the world. Only now you will face the world together in a new way. Today a new family is born and our world will be the better for its birth. For this, we all celebrate.

## Betrothal

Officiant:

Tanya and Steve, do you know of any reason why you should not be joined together in marriage?

Tanya and Steve:

We do not.



## Sample Ceremony Continued

### Exchange of Vows

Officiant:

[Tanya repeats]

Steve, I will add laughter to your smiles, and joy to your eyes, and will always be there when you are sad or troubled. My love for you will be patient and kind. It will never be possessive or demanding. I don't ask that you fulfill all my dreams. I expect only that you will share my dreams with me, and allow me to share your dreams with you. I will neither consider myself above you nor beneath you, but will walk beside you, trying always to be worthy of your love. As an equal partner, I give myself to you in marriage, and pledge you my love.

[Steve repeats]

Tanya, I will add laughter to your smiles, and joy to your eyes, and will always be there when you are sad or troubled. My love for you will be patient and kind. It will never be possessive or demanding. I don't ask that you fulfill all my dreams. I expect only that you will share my dreams with me, and allow me to share your dreams with you. I will neither consider myself above you nor beneath you, but will walk beside you, trying always to be worthy of your love. As an equal partner, I give myself to you in marriage. and pledge you my love

Officiant

[Rings Please]

The ring symbolizes the unbroken circle of endless love. The custom of wearing it on the third finger of the left hand is based on the ancient Greek belief that a vein from that finger leads directly to the heart. Thus the ring become a symbol of your love and friendship. Please take the ring and place it on the third finger.

[Steve repeats]

I give you this ring as a symbol of our love and unity.

[Tanya repeats]

I give you this ring as a symbol of our love and unity.

### Pronouncement

Officiant

Steve and Tanya have agreed to go forward in a life together, seeking an even richer and deeper relationship. They have pledged them-selves to seek joy and conquer sorrow together. Therefore, by virtue of the power vested in me, by the marriage act of the Province of



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## Sample Ceremony Continued

Saskatchewan, do hereby pronounce you Steve and Tanya, to be husband and wife.

Let all others honour them and the threshold of their house. May they find peace, happiness and fulfillment in their union. Do you, the families and friends of these two, bestow your blessings on their union and their home?

Spoken Meditation

Officiant:

I wish you all happiness; but my wishes cannot give it, nor can it come from outward circumstances. It can only come from yourselves, from the love within you.

You cannot choose what changes and chances are to befall you in the coming years, but you can choose the spirit with which you will meet them. Let it be the spirit of the noble vows in which you have just made your pledges, each to the other.

If you take these vows not as a form, but as a bond of honor which you will keep with unswerving loyalty, then whatever may come, you will have inward happiness... which no pleasures of themselves can give, no sorrows take away. Then, the whole of life that awaits you, will be an abiding security to yourselves, and a welcome example to others.

Signing of the Register

Tanya and Steve prepare to sign the marriage documents. The Bridesmaid and the Best Man accompany them to witness their signatures.

This ceremony was performed by the  
Humanist Association of Canada

