

VICTORIA and DAYNA, Surprise Wedding (Condo Party Room)

Words of welcome

Hello everyone, please gather around, and I'll explain what is happening! Victoria and Dayna have asked me to come here today to help them achieve something they have been planning since last May. Since you are all here today for the party, they have both decided that there is no time better than the present to officially begin a new chapter in their lives together. Could we have Victoria and Dayna join us at the front of the room, please?

I am Mary Beaty, a Marriage Chaplain, licensed by the Province of Ontario, and affiliated with Ontario Humanist Society, today I have the privilege and honour of officiating at the marriage ceremony of Victoria and Dayna.

(pause for surprise reaction, ask parents to sit in front, others to form circle)

This wedding, in the Humanist spirit, celebrates the joy and the beauty of life. Humanism is an ethical philosophy of life, and Humanists view marriage as a cooperative relationship based on love, respect, and the desire of both marriage partners to adjust to each other's temperaments and conditions, in health or sickness, joy or sadness, ease or hardship. It is with this understanding of the equal goals and the shared responsibilities of marriage that Victoria and Dayna have come to be legally joined, today.

It is no accident that Victoria and Dayna have brought all of you together here this afternoon. As family and friends, you are the people they love and respect. You who have supported and cared for them, and it is with you that they would like to share their joy today.

You are also their support system and since marriage is an evolving and continual process, Victoria and Dayna hope that all of you will continue to offer guidance, support, encouragement and love as they commit themselves to one another.

I will now ask all of those present: Do you now offer your support and best wishes for this couple, wishing them the best of lives together? If so, please say: "We do"

Address to the assembly

Today, Victoria and Dayna's relationship does not change. Theirs has been, and will continue to be a relationship rooted in honesty and respect, nurtured by caring and commitment, and made to flourish by devotion and love. Today their relationship simply grows stronger, made more powerful by their expressed desire to meet all of life's challenges together.

Address to the couple

Victoria and Dayna: A marriage is more than two people standing together and repeating vows. A marriage is hard work that requires flexibility, kindness, respect, trust, nurturing, care, openness and love. Practice and cultivate these skills. Be sure to make time to play together, challenge each other, learn from one another and listen to each other. This will give you strength as you face the world together.

The promise you make to each other today is a formal statement of a relationship so close and intimate that it has profoundly affected your whole lives. The vows you will now make to each other are your pledge to share the journey of life together. And so not knowing what is before you, but trusting in each other, you may embrace the joys and the sorrows of life as one family.

The Expression of Intent and Consent

It is an important universal principle, that a couple themselves shall decide when and where they will be married and to whom. We know that not all people enjoy this right and privilege, and we look forward to a world in which every person has this simple freedom. I will therefore now ask Victoria and Dayna if they have come here freely, and if they are prepared to be married to each other today.

Dayna/Victoria are you now prepared to accept Victoria/Dayna as your legal wife/husband, affirming that you have no knowledge of any impediment to your being lawfully joined in marriage?

Response: I am.

Now a few questions for each of you -

Dayna/Victoria, you have chosen Victoria/Dayna to be your wife.

Will you love and respect her?

Will you listen and share with her?

Will you support and stand by her?

Response to each question: 'I will'

The Exchange of vows

Victoria and Dayna, we now come to your vows. May I remind you that saying your vows is one thing, but nothing is more challenging than living them day by day. What you promise today must be renewed tomorrow and each day that stretches out before you.

Please turn and face each other and hold each others hands.

In the presence of your family and friends,

Dayna do you now take Victoria to be your wife.
Will you love her, comfort her, honour and protect her
respect her, and stand by her
for the rest of your lives together.?

Dayna: I will.

And now Victoria.
In the presence of your family and friends,
Victoria do you take Dayna to be your wife
Will you love her comfort her honour and protect her
respect him and stand by her
for the rest of your lives together?

Victoria: I will

The giving and receiving of rings

Having exchanged your vows, it is a custom to also exchange rings, as an outward symbol of the promise you have just made, each to the other

MARY: (to each) What gift do you offer in honour of the vow you made?

RESPONSE: This ring, made with my own hands

MARY: (to each) Do you accept this gift?

RESPONSE: I do.

Place the ring on her finger, saying:

Dayna/Victoria - I place this ring on your finger as a symbol of my love and devotion.

Affirmation of the marriage

Now may the love which has brought you together
continue to grow and enrich your lives.

May you meet with courage the problems which arise to challenge you
and may your marriage always be one of respect and love.

Declaration of Marriage

Dayna and Victoria, we have heard your promise to share your lives in marriage. We recognize and respect the covenant of marriage you have made here this day before each one of us as witnesses.

Therefore, in the honesty and sincerity of what you have said and done here today, it is my honour and delight to declare you henceforth to be a married couple!

You may now kiss.

Signing of the register

Victoria and Dayna would like to invite their mothers – Elaine and Diane
to step forward and to please sign as witnesses.

While the witnesses sign – if you would all please help yourselves to a glass of champagne in readiness for a toast...

Introduction of the couple

(couple faces guests, officiant introduces them)

It is my personal privilege and a great joy to present the officially married couple, Dayna and Victoria, and to congratulate them on their marriage!

(would you raise your glasses etc.)

TO Dayna and Victoria !!