

REAFFIRMATION OF MARRIAGE VOWS

(note – MB has made very slight edits to this ceremony)

My name is Peter Moller from the Ontario Humanist Society. We provide a non-religious ceremony for various rites of passage, celebrated in a dignified and meaningful way.

Today we are about to join _____, and _____ in reaffirming their marriage vows, and I am pleased they have asked me to provide this service.

It is a Humanist principle that there is equality between men and women in every way, and marriage is a cooperative relationship -- based on love, respect, and a determination on the part of both 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 shared responsibilities of marriage that this couple built a marriage, and they chose these values as the foundation of their married life together.

Today they come before us all to speak to us and to each other, and to re-dedicate themselves to the happiness and well-being of each other, in a union of mutual caring, trust, and responsibility.

It must be clear to all that this is no traditional ceremony. _____ and _____ prefer to celebrate their marriage here in these (open) surroundings. They also wanted to choose the words and the declarations they make to each other, to ensure a more personal and memorable occasion for everyone. Above all, they want you, whatever your beliefs, to feel part of this joyous occasion.

1. **OPENING** (Couple facing the assembly)

Welcome! _____ and _____ are pleased that you can be here today to share in their joy at this special occasion. It is now ten years since they were married. Their relationship has grown since then, and become better and better. So, this day is a day of hope. It is a day in which they demonstrate, once again, their faith in each other.

You who are gathered here as witnesses are called to continue your support and encouragement as they recommit to one another.

2. **PURPOSE** (Couple facing each other)

We all know marriage is more than two people repeating vows. There is an art to any creative activity. So too in marriage. Part of the art of marriage is finding room for the things that truly count. Continue to join together in your search for the good and the beautiful in life. Part of the art of marriage is being flexible. So in your marriage, do not forget to cultivate flexibility, patience, understanding and a sense of humour.

Most importantly, develop the capacity to forgive and heal 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 courage and support you need to face the world.

Remember always, that you will face the world together in a new way.
In every marriage, a new family is born and our world will be the better for its birth.
For that we celebrate.

3. **QUERY** (Couple facing forward)

_____, you chose ____ to be your wife/husband. Will you continue to love and respect her/him? Will you be honest with her/him always? Will you stand by her/him through whatever may come?

_____: "I will."

4. **PLEDGES**

Do both of you promise to continue making the necessary adjustments in your personal lives in order that you may live in a harmonious relationship together?

Both: "We do."

5. **VOWS** (Couple facing each other, holding hands)

Peter (to each person in turn
_____, please repeat after me:
"In the presence of these witnesses
I _____ want you, _____
To continue to be
my lawful wedded wife;
to have and to hold
from this day forward.
To laugh with you in joy
to grieve with you in sorrow
to grow with you in love
and to be faithful to you
as long as we both shall live."

6. **RINGS**

Peter: (to each person in turn)
_____, please repeat after me:
"I gave you this ring
that you might wear it as a symbol
of the vows we made on our wedding day.
I pledge to you again,
my love, my laughter, and my tears.
With all that I am, I honour you."

7. **DECLARATION and KISS** (Couple hold hands again)

PETER:

_____ and _____ we have heard your promise to continue to share your lives in marriage. We recognize and respect the covenant of marriage you made some ____ years ago, and have restated here this day before each one of us as witnesses.

So in the honesty and sincerity of what you have said and done here, I, Peter Moller, do hereby reaffirm you, _____ and _____, to be husband and wife.

You may now seal your vows with a kiss!

8. **CLOSING**

Now go back out and meet the world together as friends and companions, and may your days together be both long and good.

Congratulations and best wishes to you both.