

## GAY WEDDING CEREMONY OUTLINE

**Introduction**

Welcome everyone to this very special occasion, a celebration of the love between ..... and ..... My name is Nettie Joy Hulme and it is a pleasure and a privilege to be the celebrant for this commitment ceremony.

On behalf of .....and ..... I thank you all very much for coming along today to this beautiful place to witness the public declaration of love and commitment they are about to make. They are very happy that you have been able to come as you are the people they care most about and for this reason would like you to be part of their ceremony in a very real way by joining in the warming of their wedding rings. The rings will be passed among you and you are invited to hold them for a moment and make a silent thought, wish, blessing or prayer for .....and.....'s future life together. In this way the metal of their rings will become warmed with your loving energy before they are exchanged.

While the rings are circulating we'll continue with the rest of the ceremony.

Gatherings such as these are important as they mark the special milestones in our lives. It is also a time to acknowledge those who can't be with us today and we think especially of.....

We are going to begin the ceremony with a reading chosen and read by special friend/family – this has been chosen as it was felt that it reflected the sentiments of ..... and.....'s relationship and their hopes for the future:

GAY WEDDING CEREMONY OUTLINE

**Reading**

**Friendship in a Marriage**

(author unknown)

It is often said that it is love that makes the world go round.  
However without doubt, it is friendship  
That keeps our spinning existence on an even keel.  
True friendship provides so many of the essentials for a happy life -  
It is the strong foundation on which to build an enduring relationship,  
It is the mortar which bonds us together in harmony, and  
It is the calm, warm protection we sometimes need  
When the world outside seems cold and chaotic.  
True friendship holds a mirror to our qualities or failings  
Without destroying our sense of worthiness.  
True friendship nurtures our hopes,  
Supports us in our disappointments,  
And encourages us to grow to our best potential.  
Name and Name have come together as friends.  
Today, they pledge to each other -  
Their love, their strength, their warmth and, most importantly,  
The fun of true friendship

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**The Asking**

**Nettie**

I now ask all of you gathered here today: who brings .....and ..... to be joined together in a union of love?

**The Gathering**

We do!

**Nettie Asks the Couple:**

Do you come here freely and without doubts, to give yourselves to each other as loving partners?

Do you promise to strive for a loving and equal relationship by respecting and honouring each other and always giving generously of yourself?

And do you promise to live your lives with compassion, empathy and treading lightly on the earth?

**The Couple**

We do!

**Vows (to be repeated after Nettie)**

.....and..... will now recite the vows they have written to express their love, their promises and their hopes for their future together.

(Nettie asks the couple to face each other and hold hands – and repeat the vows)

**Partner**

....., I take you to be my friend and my lover, for the rest of my life.  
I love you and want you to share my life.  
I promise to always be there for you and accept you as you are.  
I shall honour this pledge as long as I live.

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**Exchange of Rings (to be repeated after Nettie)**

Could the ring bearer please bring forth the rings?

....., I give you this ring, which has been warmed by our family and friends, as a reminder of my love and commitment. Let it be a sign to you that I will always be there, and a sign to the world of the hopes and the dreams we share for our future together.

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**Reading**

I now invite .....to give us a final reading for the ceremony today

**Apache Blessing**

Treat yourselves and each other with respect, and remind yourselves often of what brought you together. Give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness and kindness that your connection deserves. When frustration, difficulty and fear assail your relationship – as they threaten all relationships at one time or another – remember to focus on what is right between you, not only the part which seems wrong. In this way, you can ride out the storms when clouds hide the face of the sun in your lives – remembering that even if you lose sight of it for a moment, the sun is still there. And if each of you takes responsibility for the quality of your life together, it will be marked by abundance and delight.

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**Declaration**

.....,you have in our presence here today freely agreed to be committed to each other each other. Your promises to love one another and care for one another have been expressed in your vows to each other and the exchange of rings. You may now seal the ceremony, and your promises, with a kiss!

**The Signing (Music?)**

We will now take a few moments to sign the commitment certificates. Could the witnesses please come forward and everyone else please stay close and will come back to you soon to present the newly committed couple.

**Presentation of the Certificate**

May your future journey together be filled with joy and dreams fulfilled. Everyone you are now invited to come forward and congratulate ..... and .....  
(Music?)