

Your Civil Partnership in Edinburgh

Your Civil Partnership ceremony would normally follow the structure shown below. This can be personalised through the selection of options detailed within this booklet. You will find a form at the rear of the booklet should you wish to make amendments.

Welcome / Introduction

Identification

Declarations to be made

Definition of partnership

Paperwork preliminaries

Consent to making declarations

No Impediment declaration

Civil partnership declaration

Exchange of Vows

Exchange of Rings / Gifts

Legal signing - Pronunciation

Non religious readings, poems etc. chosen by you for a guest or guests to read may be inserted between any sections, subject to the content being approved by the Registrar.

Our readings booklet, if not already enclosed, is available upon request.

Welcome / Introduction

Usual Wording

Good morning/afternoon and welcome tovenue's name.....

My name is and I have been authorised by the Registrar General for Scotland to conduct Civil Partnership registrations in the District of Edinburgh.

We are here today to witness and celebrate the partnership of and

Through their words during this ceremony they shall be entering into a commitment with one another and, through your presence as witnesses and guests you will be expressing your support for them. The signing of the Civil Partnership schedule at the close of this ceremony, once a verbal commitment has been made, will complete the legalities of this special day.

Additional Options

Option A - Addition of verbal involvement of Escort

i.e. May I ask you as’s escort that you do consent to this union taking place?

Thank you, in which case would you please be seated with the guests

Option B - Addition of a formal identification/confirmation of witnesses

i.e. May I ask you to confirm, you are ..witness name.. ,
and as a legal witness to this partnership,
that you do consent this union taking place?

Option C – Reasons behind choosing the venue or date

If your venue or date of partnership has any particular significance to you and you wish to incorporate this into your ceremony, please provide these details when completing the form at the rear of this booklet.

Identification

Before I proceed with this civil ceremony I must ask both the parties to formally identify themselves in my presence and in the presence of their witnesses.

Therefore, can you now confirm that your name is.....

Therefore, can you now confirm that your name is.....

Exchange of Rings/Gifts – Usual Wording

Their verbal commitment made to each other, our happy couple have chosen to give and receive ring(s)/gifts as a symbol of the union they now enter.

..... place the ring over finger and repeat after me

This ring is given / as a token of the declarations (and vows) / I have made here today

..... place the ring over finger and repeat after me

This ring is given / as a token of the declarations (and vows) / I have made here today

Additional Options

Option A - Extended introduction of the ring(s)

Traditionally, it was the passage to the status of husband and wife which was marked by the exchange of rings, a tradition now extending to partnership ceremonies such as this. These rings are a symbol of the unbroken circle of love freely given, they like your love has no beginning and no end. May these rings always remind you of the declarations you have made to each other.

Option B - Vows as rings are exchanged

I give you this ring as a sign of our union /

All that I am, I give to you /

All that I have, I share with you /

For the whole of our life together

Option C - Alternative wording

I give you this ring /

as a token of my love /

and as a symbol of our union today

Option D – Your own choice of words

Your own drafted wording, to use at the ring/gift exchange



Definition of partnership – Usual Wording

..... &, it is my duty to remind you of the binding character of the declarations you are about to make, a registered civil partnership according to the laws of this country is the voluntary union of two men/woman, for the duration of their lives, to the exclusion of all others.

Additional Options

Option A

A successful partnership is one where each partner discovers that it is better to give love than to receive it. To truly love another person is to wish that person to develop and flourish in his or her own terms.

Option B

Civil Partnership joins two people who trust the love they have found. It is a partnership in which each can grow and be true to themselves, whilst sharing in the development of each other. It is a statement to all those around them, of something the two of them already know, that they have found such love friendship and support that they want to share the rest of their lives together.

Option C

Civil Partnership is more than words or ceremony. It is a commitment to be reaffirmed each and every day. You can make your relationship a living thing. It will be you who begin every day making choices. To express caring or avoiding it; to reveal love or to be too busy; to acknowledge respect and to take joy from one another or build walls; and through those daily choices, to renew the vows you will make today.



Option D

Partnership means making a commitment to each other, it means developing and maintaining affection, co-operation, friendship and mutual respect.

It calls for honesty, patience, trust and humour. It requires both closeness and distance, the closeness of a couple growing together and sufficient distance to allow each other to grow as an individual.

Option E

Your own words drafted on what partnership means to you both

Paperwork preliminaries – Usual Wording

To be here today, you have been required to lodge written notice of your intention to record your partnership with my office. This notice period is now complete and no impediments have been found to exist.

Your names and intention have been displayed for the statutory period within my office and you will be pleased to hear, that no objections have been lodged.

The legalities complete and now wish to affirm their relationship in a formal and public pledge, offering each other the security that comes from binding vows, sincerely made and faithfully kept.

Additional Option

Option - Personal stories on written notice, light hearted mention of objections or your own personally drafted wording on the build up to the ceremony

i.e. I'm informed it was in fact during the champions league final that Tom still managed to have Brian sign his notice form, not because he knew what he was signing himself in to as such, more that he wished to be left in peace to watch the penalty shoot out that followed extra time!



Consent to making declarations – Usual Wording

We are not here simply as an audience today, the presence of all of you to witness this event is important to and

Also we are not present to hear recited words, we are here to listen to the making of sincere pledges.

..... are you ready without reservation to make your declarations to

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Additional Options

Option A - Shorter version

It is at this stage of the ceremony that I must ask you, are you both ready, without reservation, to make your declarations to each other?

Option B – Continuation of usual wording acknowledging personal vows

....*making of sincere pledges* which, while including the aforementioned declarations, will also contain vows which and have composed themselves to exchange at this moment in their lives.

Option C – Expansion of usual wording

The ceremony provides an opportunity to bring together friends and family in one place to impart the message of love and commitment and for everyone to celebrate the happiness of the happy couple.

Option D – Your own choice of words

Your own drafted wording, consenting to proceed to the declarations

Declarations & Vows

No Impediment declaration

..... please repeat after me:

I / do solemnly and sincerely declare /
that I know of no legal impediment / to my partnership registration with
.....

..... please repeat after me:

I / do solemnly and sincerely declare /
that I know of no legal impediment / to my partnership registration with
.....

Civil partnership declaration

Your second declaration today is where you shall accept each other as legal civil partners, please now turn and face each other and join both your hands together.

..... please make this declaration to

I solemnly and sincerely declare / that Iaccept you
/ as my lawful civil partner / to the exclusion of all others

..... please make this declaration to

I solemnly and sincerely declare / that Iaccept you
/ as my lawful civil partner / to the exclusion of all others

Declarations & Vows - Additional options

(options in this section would be added to declarations)

Option A

I promise to Love, Honour and Respect you / In Sickness and in Health
/ For Richer for Poorer / For Better for Worse / And upon this Promise,
I will base our relationship

Option B

Before these witnesses, this is my promise /
To treasure and take care of the special love we have together /
To grow with you and respect your ideas and expressions /
To always talk with you / and share our happy times and our sad times

Option C

I promise loyalty and friendship /
And to love you with all that I am and all that I can /
This I promise you from the depths of my heart and mind /
For all our life together

Option D

Do you promise that you will always protect this woman/man with your utmost care /
That you will honour and cherish her/him in sickness and in health /
For richer for poorer and in all things you will be to her/him faithful and loving?

Option E

Your own written vows drafted personally and approved by the registrar

"I do" alternative

If you are nervous about speaking before your guests and anticipate the repetition of the declarations will be a problem for you, the Registrar could read the declarations to you in the form of a question, to which you may answer simply "I do".

Exchange of Rings/Gifts – Usual Wording

Their verbal commitment made to each other, our happy couple have chosen to give and receive ring(s)/gifts as a symbol of the union they now enter.

..... place the ring over finger and repeat after me

This ring is given / as a token of the declarations (and vows) / I have made here today

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Additional Options

Option A - Extended introduction of the ring(s)

Traditionally, it was the passage to the status of husband and wife which was marked by the exchange of rings, a tradition now extending to partnership ceremonies such as this. These rings are a symbol of the unbroken circle of love freely given, they like your love has no beginning and no end. May these rings always remind you of the declarations you have made to each other.

Option B - Vows as rings are exchanged

I give you this ring as a sign of our union /

All that I am, I give to you /

All that I have, I share with you /

For the whole of our life together

Option C - Alternative wording

I give you this ring /

as a token of my love /

and as a symbol of our union today

Option D – Your own choice of words

Your own drafted wording, to use at the ring/gift exchange



Legal Signing - Pronunciation

You have now both made a solemn promise which must be sealed with the legality of signing the Civil Partnership Schedule. Please join me for the signing.

By virtue of the declarations and promises you have both made in my presence and in the presence of your witnesses.

I have pleasure in pronouncing you registered civil partners.

You may kiss.

Additional Options

Option A - Emphasis on recognition of partnership

I have pleasure in pronouncing you registered civil partners from this day onwards, a status recognised by law and acknowledged by society.

You may kiss.

Option B - Extended pronunciation

By virtue of your declarations (vows) and signing, in my presence as an authorised Registrar/Assistant Registrar and before these witnesses, I declare you and you are now registered civil partners in accordance with law.

You may kiss

Option C – Your own choice of words

Your own drafted wording, to be used as you are pronounced registered civil partners.

Fees for a Civil Partnership Registration in Registrar's Offices

REGISTRATION OFFICE 1

Registration Office
59-63 George IV Bridge
Edinburgh
EH1 1RN

Telephone No: 0131 529 2600 Fax: 0131 529 2613
E-mail: registrars.lothian.chambers@edinburgh.gov.uk

Monday - Friday	Statutory fee - lodging civil partnership notice	£30.00 x 2	
	Civil Partnership registration fee	£55.00	
	Civil Partnership certificate	£9.00 (total)	£124.00
	Additional Council fee City of Edinburgh Suite		£115.00
	Additional Council fee Melbourne/ McIntyre Suites		£85.00
	TOTAL for City of Edinburgh Suite		£239.00
	TOTAL for Melbourne / McIntyre Suites		£209.00
Saturday	Statutory fee - lodging civil partnership notice	£30.00 x 2	
	Civil Partnership registration fee	£55.00	
	Civil Partnership certificate	£9.00 (total)	£124.00
	Additional Council fee for City of Edinburgh Suite		£170.00
	Additional Council fee for Melbourne / McIntyre Suites		£140.00
	TOTAL for City of Edinburgh Suite		£294.00
	TOTAL for Melbourne / McIntyre Suites		£264.00
	Additional Fee for a Ceremony		£20.00

(Fees may be subject to change without notice)

REGISTRATION OFFICE 2

LEITH
30 Ferry Road, Edinburgh, EH6 4AE
Tel: 0131 554 8452 Fax: 0131 554 6568
E-Mail: registrars.leith@edinburgh.gov.uk

PLEASE NOTE: Disabled access is limited at this office. Please contact the registrar should you have difficulty accessing this office due to mobility problems.

Monday - Friday	Statutory fee (additional council fee not applicable)	£124.00
	Additional Fee for a Ceremony	£20.00

£ 144

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INFORMATION

Deposit	£55.00 must be paid within 14 days of booking – failure to pay this within the specified time will lead to the booking being cancelled
Non-refundable fees	Deposit will only be refunded if cancellation has been notified in writing more than two months before the date of the planned civil partnership ceremony. If Civil Partnership notice has been lodged - The fee for this (£60.00) is strictly non-refundable.
Payment	Can be made by Credit/Debit cards, Cheques made payable to 'City of Edinburgh Council' (cheque must clear before date of caremony) or cash.