

The Alt Officiant - Sample Ceremony

thealtofficiant@gmail.com

508-948-5960

Welcome Statement

Officiant:

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here on this beautiful day to witness the union of Michaela and Matthew in holy matrimony. This is a day of great celebration and reverence, on which we come together before before God to recognize and commemorate the sacred love and dedication shared between these two people. It is wonderful to have family and friends here to join us today. The bride and groom would like to thank their guests for being here, and would like you to know that each of you were invited here on this day because you have played an integral part in their intertwining lives. They would also like to recognize Michaela's mother, Carole Razzino, and all other friends and family who cannot be with us.

Family Blessing

Officiant:

Who gives this bride today?

John:

I do.

(Michaela joins Matthew)

Officiant:

Before we begin the wedding ceremony, Michaela's father Buddy would like to say a few words.

John:

(Speech)

Introduction

Officiant:

As the Bible reminds us in Corinthians, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no

record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres. Love never fails."

In the time that Michaela and Matthew have spent together, they've built the sturdy foundation for a lifelong relationship. They have grown as individuals and grown together as a couple, along the way becoming parents to their two beautiful boys, Henry and Lucas. And, after a great deal of thoughtful consideration, they have decided to bind themselves to one another for the rest of their lives through marriage.

May you all remember and cherish this moment, for on this day, with love, we will forever bind Michaela and Matthew together.

Wedding Sermon

Officiant:

Marriage is a sacred ceremony. Today we observe the union of these two people with the respect the occasion warrants. What we honor with reverence, however, we also celebrate with great joy! For married life – a shared life – is a tremendous blessing. Now, as Michaela and Matthew embark on this journey together, they will nurture a love that makes each of them better versions of themselves. Marriage is, indeed, the perfect garden from which to sow and harvest personal growth.

Michaela and Matthew, take a moment to sense the tremendous amount of love radiating throughout this space. As you stand here today, before God, before those gathered here in your honor, and before one another, take note that after you speak your vows this day your lives will never be the same. Marriage, regardless of any preconceived notions you might have, has the capacity to deepen and challenge and strengthen you and your relationship in ways that you never thought possible.

The joy you'll find as you pursue your shared lives will fuel you to face head-on the challenges you'll encounter on this Earth. On your journeys together, keep your spouse in the space of highest priority in your heart.

Learn to work together, to laugh together, and to love together. Don't get caught up in worldly things that will draw you apart. Instead, focus on your shared devotion and turn inward. As your relationship strengthens you will find that you come to share a remarkable love; a love that is both abundantly given and freely accepted.

Now, I will ask Chantal, to share a reading she has prepared for Michaela and Matthew.

Reading 1

Chantal:

Marry your best friend. I do not say that lightly. Really, truly find the strongest, happiest friendship in the person you fall in love with. Someone who speaks highly of you. Someone you can laugh with. The kind of laughs that make your belly ache, and your nose snort. The embarrassing, earnest, healing kind of laughs. Wit is important. Life is too short not to love someone who lets you be a fool with them. Make sure they are somebody who lets you cry, too. Despair will come. Find someone that you want to be there with you through those times. Most importantly, marry the one that makes passion, love, and madness combine and course through you. A love that will never dilute - even when the waters get deep, and dark.

Love Story

Officiant:

For many couples their wedding day signifies new beginnings, new adventures, and a newly shared life together. While this still holds true, you started this journey together some time ago. You've proven your commitment, your love, your resilience, your strength, and your character to each other and those around you and your experiences have shaped who you are today.

When asked about why she loves Matthew, Michaela answered "His humor, he's a big kid and he's amazing with our boys - a great father. He is determined and hardworking, a provider, and he takes the time to make sure that I know how much he loves and appreciates me. There are days where he's a real pain and I think I'm raising 3 boys, but it's all worth it."

When asked about why he loves Michaela, Matthew answered "Her patience and selflessness, she's an amazing mother and very hard working. I truly respect Michaela for all that she does and when I think I have a hard day, I have to remember that her days are even harder and she never complains. The people that she loves, she loves deeply and unconditionally, that includes our boys, me, her family, and her friends."

Matthew proposed to Michaela on December 3, 2015. However, step one was speaking to Michaela's father, Buddy, and asking him to marry his daughter. While helping Buddy do some electrical work he completely caught him off guard with the conversation. After giving some rather lengthy, yet excellent advice about marriage, relationships, the meaning of marriage, making a lifelong commitment, being a husband, and being a father, Buddy gave his full support and blessing. Now it was crunch time, Matthew had to work quickly because Donna, his mother, knew he had the ring and she had already told everyone in their extended family. So the next day, on the way back from a rare parents-only outing where Michaela was voicing her frustrations of "when will I ever get a ring and when will we ever get married?!" (which I'm told wasn't nearly as rare) they arrived at home to be greeted by Henry and Lucas running into the yard with coordinating shirts. Initially, Michaela didn't see what was written on their shirts, but once she realized that one read "Mommy Will You" and the other "Marry Daddy" she was beyond ecstatic and happily accepted.

That day, and many other days filled with love before and after it, bring us to today where all of these people are here to cheer you on and join in your well deserved celebration.

Now, I will ask Colleen, to share a reading she has prepared for the happy couple.

Reading 2

Colleen:

The most wonderful of all things in life, I believe, is the discovery of another human being with whom one's relationship has a growing depth, beauty, and joy as the years increase. This inner progressiveness of love between two human beings is a most marvelous thing; it cannot be found by looking for it or by passionately wishing for it. It is a sort of divine accident, and the most wonderful of all things in life.

Consecration

Officiant:

As we celebrate this bond of unity today it is important that we keep in mind that, while this is certainly an occasion of tremendous joy, the promises we witness here today are serious and life-altering commitments.

It is with simultaneous feelings of elation and expressions of respect that we proceed.

Declaration of Intent

Officiant:

Michaela and Matthew please join hands.

Michaela, do you take Matthew to live together in the union of marriage? To take him as your best friend and partner in life? To honor, cherish, and love him, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, for all of your days?

Michaela:

I do.

Matthew, do you take Michaela to live together in the union of marriage? To take her as your best friend and partner in life? To honor, cherish, and love her, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, for all of your days?

Matthew:

I do.

Exchange of Rings

Officiant:

Henry and Lucas, will you please present the rings?

(Boys give the rings to Mom and Dad)

May these rings symbolize your inherent wholeness and unity with one another, giving you the strength to happily honor your commitments to each other.

May they remind you that marriage is not a destination but a journey, with no beginning and no end, just a moment to moment opportunity to love and be loved to the best of your ability.

Michaela, as you place the ring on Matthews's finger, please repeat after me:

With this ring, I marry you and bind my life to yours.

It is a symbol of my eternal love,

My everlasting friendship,

And the promise of all my tomorrows.

I give you all that I am,

and accept all that you are.

Matthew, as you place the ring on Michaela's finger, please repeat after me:

With this ring, I marry you and bind my life to yours.

It is a symbol of my eternal love,

My everlasting friendship,

And the promise of all my tomorrows.

I give you all that I am,

and accept all that you are.

Pre-Pronouncement

Officiant:

Before I pronounce you married partners, there's just one more thing I want you to do. Your wedding day is one that seems to fly. It's a day filled with emotion, family, friends, rings, and dancing. Many people remember how fleeting their own wedding day was. So I want you to take a few seconds to look into each other's eyes. Think about the happiness that you're feeling in this place, in this moment. Really let that feeling register in your heart and your mind. Now, I want you to think about your life together in twenty years. Where are you? What are you doing? We all know that your visions of the future are not identical, but always complimentary. John Lennon once said, "a dream you dream alone is only a dream, a dream you dream together, that is reality." That new reality starts now.

Pronouncement

Officiant:

Family and friends, by the power vested in me by the Universal Life Church and by the state of New Hampshire, I am pleased to pronounce Michaela and Matthew as wife and husband, sealed together today in the eyes of God, in law, and in love.

Kiss

Officiant:

Matthew, you may kiss your beautiful bride.

Presentation

Officiant:

Ladies and gentlemen, for the first time, Mr. and Mrs. Michaela and Matthew Smith!