

The Civil Marriage Ceremony Handbook for Mayors

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in coordination with the Michigan Municipal League**

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Introduction

Mayors have had the authority to solemnize marriages in the State of Michigan since Public Act 211 of 1972 was signed into law. The legislation was passed as a means of relieving pressure on the court system.

In some cities, the procedure is well established and a city staff person has been designated to assist the mayor in any way possible. Where this is not the case, mayors have turned to other mayors, the county clerk's office or court personnel for assistance. This publication is offered as a practical guide and supplement to those resources. The checklists and sample ceremonies provided may be modified and used to meet individual needs and preferences.

Although the ground rules for solemnizing marriages are the same for mayors in large and small cities, rural or urban communities, an informal survey of mayors and city staff revealed a broad array of opinions on the subject, individual style differences, and varying community needs.

Some mayors consider it "the best part of the job," an honor and a privilege. Some see it as a contribution to the overall well being of their community or as an opportunity to do something positive for their citizens. Others simply see it as part of the public service they are charged to provide as mayor. Still others find solemnizing marriages an uncomfortable "fit" for a number of reasons—religious convictions, time pressures of their full-time job, or just "on general principles." Regardless of comfort level, mayors find it difficult to refuse a family member or close friend who requests their services, and most find these occasions to be the most satisfying wedding experience of all.

Not surprisingly, mayors who said they enjoy performing weddings are called upon often and tend to put something of themselves into the ceremony. (One mayor reports performing a record fourteen weddings on Valentine's Day!) These mayors often meet with the couple in advance or spend some time getting to know them just before the ceremony, provide a selection of ceremonies or allow the couple to write their own vows and present a personalized copy of the chosen text on the wedding day embossed with the city seal.

Others are able to be very accommodating about the time and place where weddings may occur. New legislation passed in 2007 enables mayors to perform marriage ceremonies anywhere in the county in which their city is located. Mayors have married couples in backyards and city parks, on river banks, boat piers, and city streets, in restaurants, gazebos and rental halls, on horseback and even on a 747 airplane!

Whatever the circumstances, mayors offer this simple advice for those about to perform a marriage for the first time – line up a city staff person to help with the details, take some time to go through the ceremony once or twice, and then "relax and enjoy!" With the help of this handbook, we hope you will be able to do just that.

Outline of the Procedure

- City council determines mandatory marriage fee to be deposited in the general fund.
- Informational visit or telephone call is made by the couple to the county clerk.
- Appointment for the ceremony is made with the mayor.
- Both parties receive educational materials regarding the transmission and prevention of venereal disease and HIV infection and are issued a certificate.
- Formal application is made for the marriage license from the county clerk.
- County clerk issues license to marry.
- The couple appears before the mayor with license at the scheduled time.
- Two witnesses to the ceremony are registered.
- The ceremony is performed; the marriage is solemnized.
- Both the duplicate and the original license are signed by the mayor.
- Mayor gives the first duplicate license to the couple; the original and the second duplicate copy are sent to the county clerk within ten days.
- The fee is paid by the couple to the mayor and deposited in the city's general fund.
- The marriage is entered into the mayor's official journal of marriages.

The Procedure and Marriage Law in Brief

Authority

Mayors were given the authority to perform marriages in Michigan in 1972 when Public Act 211 was signed into law. [See Michigan Compiled Laws 551.7(1)(f)]

Village presidents were not given the authority to perform marriages.

Mayors pro tem do not have the authority to perform marriages. Difficult legal questions arise as to whether the mayor's absence from the city is of the nature and duration which may authorize the mayor pro tem to assume the office of mayor. According to case law, a mayor pro tem, acting as mayor, may be authorized to perform only routine duties or act to meet an emergency. [*Cytacki v Buscko*, 226 Mich 524 (1924)]

Mayors are not required by law to perform marriages. Some mayors thoroughly enjoy the responsibility and contribute extra personal time and effort. Some confine marriage ceremonies to a designated day of the week or a certain location. Others choose not to perform the ceremony at all.

Also authorized to solemnize a marriage are: a district court judge or magistrate; a municipal probate or federal judge; a county clerk in the county in which the clerk serves, or in a county over 2,000,000 a designee of the county clerk in the county in which the clerk serves; and an authorized minister of the gospel or clerk or religious practitioner. [MCL 551.7(a) to (i)]

Fees

City council is required to set the marriage fee, by statute. The fees collected are to be deposited in the city's general fund. The mayor collects the fee at the time of marriage. [MCL 551.7(3)]

Fees for this service generally fall in the \$10 to \$50 range.

A sample resolution may be found in the back of this handbook.

Form

No particular form is required to solemnize a marriage except the parties "... shall solemnly declare, in the presence of the person solemnizing the marriage and the attending witnesses, that they take each other as husband and wife; ..." [MCL 551.9]

Sample ceremonies may be found in the back of this handbook.

Jurisdiction

A mayor may perform a marriage ceremony anywhere in a county in which that city is located. [MCL 551.7(1)(f)]

License

A marriage license is required by state law. The license is issued by the county clerk of the county in which either the man or woman resides. If both parties are non-residents of the state, they must obtain the license from the county in which the marriage will be performed. [MCL 551.2, 551.101]

As a first step and to avoid any later misunderstanding, basic information concerning the procedure to follow should be obtained by the couple directly from the county clerk's office.

To issue a license, the county clerk will require a completed health certificate and a signed affidavit attesting to the parties' competency under the law to enter into marriage. [MCL 551.102]

Parties to a marriage must be 18 years of age or older, or 16 years of age with a parent's or legal guardian's consent. [MCL 551.103]

A license fee is required, (\$20 for residents, \$30 for non-residents). [MCL 551.103]

Three days after the date of application, one or both of the contracting parties may pick up the license at the county clerk's office. **The license is good for 30 days.** In 1989 the clerk's office was given authority to expedite the three-day wait "for good and sufficient cause shown." [MCL 551.103a]

Following the ceremony, a completed copy of the license is given to one of the parties joined in marriage. The original license is returned to the county clerk issuing the license **within 10 days.** [MCL 551.104]

Medical Exam/Health Certificate

The county clerk no longer requires evidence of a medical examination to issue a license. However, a certificate indicating the couple has received educational materials regarding the transmission and prevention of venereal disease and HIV infection is required. [MCL 333.5119].

Notice

As a courtesy to the mayor, and to allow the couple adequate time to meet state license requirements, at least two to three weeks' notice to the mayor is desirable. At that time, an appointment for the marriage can be made and special arrangements considered. General information in some written format might be made available to the parties to the marriage to remind them of all the steps to be followed in preparation for the wedding day.

Oath

Mayors are no longer required to administer the marriage oath. This requirement was removed when section 551.8 of the marriage law was repealed by Public Act 64 of 1983.

Penalties

"If a person authorized to solemnize marriages knowingly joins any persons in marriage contrary to the provision of this chapter, he or she shall forfeit for each offense a sum not exceeding \$500.00." [MCL 551.14]

"If any person should undertake to join others in marriage, knowing that he is not lawfully authorized so to do, or knowing of any legal impediment to the proposed marriage, he shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail not more than 1 year, or by a fine not less than 50 nor more than 500 dollars, or by both such fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court." [MCL 551.15]

"Any clergyman or magistrate who shall join together in marriage, parties who have not delivered to him a properly issued license, as provided for in this act, or who shall violate any of the provision of this act, shall be adjudged guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be punished by a fine of 100 dollars, or, in default of payment thereof, by imprisonment in the county jail for a term of 90 days." [MCL 551.106]

"Any person, whose duty it shall be to return a marriage certificate to the county clerk, who shall neglect to return said certificate, shall be adjudged guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be punished by a fine of not exceeding 100 dollars or 90 days imprisonment, or both, in the discretion of the court." [MCL 551.107]

Record

The mayor must keep "an accurate record of all marriages solemnized in a book used expressly for that purpose." [MCL 551.7(2), 551.104]

Signatures

Upon solemnization of the marriage vows, the mayor must affix his or her signature and official title to both the original and duplicate licenses. Typewriting such information underneath the handwritten form assures legibility for proper recording.

Witnesses

A marriage requires the presence of at least two witnesses at the ceremony.
[MCL 551.9]

The mayor must obtain the signatures of the witnesses and the address of their residences on the marriage certificate and at the bottom of the marriage license. This may be done before the ceremony.

Mayor's Checklist

1. Check the license for correct spelling of names and addresses.
2. Check the date of issue of the license. After thirty days, the license is void.
3. Solemnize the marriage.
Complete the certificate of marriage. Use black ink. Except for the mayor's signature, all spaces are to be filled in by typewriter or printed legibly.
The mayor's name and title may be either typed or printed under his or her signature. For legibility, the witnesses' names should also be typed or printed under their signatures.
4. Collect the fee.
5. Present one party with the first duplicate copy of the marriage license.
6. Return the original copy and the second duplicate copy to the county clerk within ten days of the ceremony.
7. Record the marriage in the official journal.
8. Deposit the fee with the city treasurer.

Questions and Answers About the Mayor's Authority

Q. Can the mayor perform a marriage ceremony outside the city's corporate limits?

A. Yes. A new law was passed in 2007 allowing mayors to perform marriage ceremonies anywhere in a county in which their city is located. [MCL 551.7(1)(f)]

Some mayors agree to perform the marriage ceremony in private homes or other locations outside city hall.

Q. Is a mayor required to pass upon the eligibility for marriage of the couple?

A. No. Parties intending to be married obtain a license from the county clerk of the county in which either resides, or, if non-residents of the state, from the county clerk of the county in which the marriage is to be performed. It is the duty of the county clerk to pass upon the competency of the parties and their satisfactory fulfillment of all state statutes and requirements before issuance of a license to marry. [MCL 551.2, 551.101, 551.102] The mayor has been delegated only the power to solemnize the marriage.

Q. Is a mayor required to perform a marriage ceremony upon request?

A. No. There is no mandate upon a mayor in this respect. It is in the nature of an extra service which some mayor's feel is needed in their city, while mayors of other cities feel differently.

Q. How much should a mayor charge for performing a marriage ceremony?

A. The statute provides that the fee shall be set by the city's legislative body. Fees are to be paid to the city treasurer and deposited in the general fund of the city as general city revenues. An informal survey shows fees of \$10 to \$50 to be common in the State of Michigan.

Q. Can an acting mayor or mayor pro tem solemnize a marriage?

A. No. A mayor pro tem does not have the authority to perform marriages. According to case law, a mayor pro tem or an acting mayor may perform only routine duties or act to meet an emergency. [*Cytacki v Buscko*, 226 Mich 525 (1924)]

Appendix

Summaries of Selected Provisions of Law Governing Marriage

This summary of selected provisions of the Michigan law governing marriage is taken from the Michigan Compiled Laws, Chapter 551. For amendments to the laws after November 2003, please consult your city attorney, court office and/or county clerk.

551.2 Marriage a civil contract, need for consent, license and solemnization

Marriage, so far as its validity is concerned, is a civil contract, to which the consent of parties capable in law of contracting, is essential. Consent alone will not be enough to effectuate a legal marriage on and after January 1, 1957. Consent shall be followed by obtaining a license . . . and solemnization, as authorized by . . . Sections 7 to 18 of this Chapter.

551.3 Persons a man cannot marry

A man shall not marry his mother, sister, grandmother, daughter, granddaughter, stepmother, grandfather's wife, son's wife, grandson's wife, wife's mother, wife's grandmother, wife's daughter, wife's granddaughter, brother's daughter, sister's daughter, father's sister, mother's sister, cousin of the first degree, or another man.

551.4 Persons a woman cannot marry

A woman shall not marry her father, brother, grandfather, son, grandson, stepfather, grandmother's husband, daughter's husband, granddaughter's husband, husband's father, husband's grandfather, husband's son, husband's grandson, brother's son, sister's son, father's brother, mother's brother, cousin of the first degree, or another woman.

551.5. Bigamy prohibited

No marriage shall be contracted whilst either of the parties has a former wife or husband living, unless the marriage with such former wife or husband, shall have been dissolved.

551.6 Incapacity; mental or venereal disease

Repealed 2001, Act 9 effective May 29, 2001.
The repealed section pertained to prohibition of certain marriages.

551.7 Persons authorized to solemnize marriages; records; and fees

1. Marriage may be solemnized by any of the following:
 - a. A judge of the district court, in the district in which the judge is serving.
 - b. A district court magistrate, in the district in which the magistrate serves.

- c. A municipal judge, in the city in which the judge is serving or in a township over which a municipal court has jurisdiction pursuant to section 9928 of Act No. 246 of the Public Acts of 1961, being section 600.9928 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.
 - d. A judge of probate, in the county or probate court district in which the judge is serving.
 - e. A judge of a federal court.
 - f. A mayor of a city, anywhere in a county in which that city is located.
 - g. The county clerk in the county in which the clerk serves, or in a county having more than 2,000,000 inhabitants, an employee of the clerk's office designated by the county clerk in the county in which the clerk serves.
 - h. A minister of the gospel or cleric or religious practitioner, anywhere in the state, if the minister or cleric or religious practitioner is ordained or authorized to solemnize marriages according to the usage of the denomination.
 - i. A minister of the gospel or cleric or religious practitioner, anywhere in the state, if the minister or cleric or religious practitioner is not a resident of this state but is authorized to solemnize marriages under the laws of the state in which the minister or cleric or religious practitioner resides.
2. A person authorized by this act to solemnize a marriage shall keep proper records and make returns as required by section 4 of Act No. 128 of the Public Acts of 1887, as amended, being section 551.104 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.
 3. If a mayor of a city solemnizes a marriage, the mayor shall charge and collect a fee to be determined by the council of that city, which shall be paid to the city treasurer and deposited in the general fund of the city at the end of the month.
 4. If the county clerk or in a county having more than 2,000,000 inhabitants, an employee of the clerk's office designated by the county clerk solemnizes a marriage, the county clerk shall charge and collect a fee to be determined by the commissioners of that county, which shall be paid to the county treasurer and deposited in the general fund of the county at the end of the month.

551.16

Effect on marriage of lack of authority to marry

A marriage solemnized before a person professing to be a district judge, common pleas court judge, district court magistrate, municipal judge, judge of probate, judge of a federal court, mayor, the county clerk or, in a county having more than 2,000,000 inhabitants, an employee of the county clerk designated by the clerk to solemnize marriages, or a minister of the gospel or cleric or religious practitioner, shall not be considered or adjudged to be void, nor shall the validity of the marriage be affected, on account of any want of jurisdiction or authority by that individual if the marriage was

consummated with a full belief of the persons married, or either of them, that they were lawfully joined in marriage.

551.103 Minimum age

Every person who becomes 18 years of age shall be capable by law of contracting marriage. Every person who becomes 16 years of age but is less than 18 years of age shall be capable of contracting marriage with the written consent of one of the parents of the person or the person's legal guardian. . . .As proof of age, the party to the intended marriage, when requested by the county clerk, shall submit a birth certificate or other proof of age. . .

551.104 Duty of person officiating at marriage

It shall be the duty of the clergyman or magistrate, officiating at a marriage, to fill in the spaces of the certificate left blank for the entry of the time and place of marriage, the names and the residences of two witnesses, and his or her own signature in certification that the marriage has been performed by him and any and all information required to be filled in, in the spaces left blank in the certificate shall be typewritten or legibly printed. He or she shall separate the duplicate license and certificate, and deliver the half part designated duplicate to one of the parties, so joined in marriage, and within 10 days return the original to the county clerk issuing the same. It shall be the duty of such clergyman or magistrate to keep an accurate record of all marriages solemnized in a book used expressly for that purpose.

Sample Marriage Ceremonies

The following examples are offered as a guide. You are encouraged to develop your own ceremony by combining sections from the following examples and writing sections that reflect your personal style.

Sample Ceremony One

Introduction

(Mayor)

We are gathered together here in the presence of these witnesses to join this man and this woman in matrimony, which is an honorable estate, and is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently and discreetly. If anyone can show just cause why this man and this woman may not lawfully be joined together, let them speak now or hereafter remain silent.

(Mayor to the Bride and Groom)

_____ and _____, I require and charge you both that if either of you know any reason why you may not lawfully be joined together in matrimony, you do now confess. If any persons are joined together otherwise than as prescribed by law, their marriage is not lawful.

Exchange of Vows

(Mayor to the Groom)

_____, will you take this woman to be your wedded wife, to live together in the estate of matrimony? Will you love, honor and keep her; in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto her, as long as you both shall live?

(Groom)

I will

(Mayor to the Bride)

_____, will you take this man to be your wedded husband, to live together in the estate of matrimony? Will you love, honor and keep him; in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, keep yourself only until him, so long as you both shall live?

(Bride)

I will

(Mayor to Groom)

_____, take _____ by the hand and repeat after me. "I, _____, take thee _____, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish until death do us part.

(Mayor to the Bride)

_____, repeat after me. "I, _____, take thee _____, to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until death do us part."

Giving and Receiving of Rings

(Mayor)

For as much as _____ and _____ have consented together in wedlock and have witnessed the same before this company, and thereto have given and pledged their troth, each to the other, and have declared the same by joining hands.

Now, by the authority vested in me by the State of Michigan and the Office of Mayor of the City of _____, I pronounce you to be husband and wife and extend to you my best wishes for a successful and happy married life together.

A personal thanks for granting me the honor and privilege of extending the marriage rites to you on this wonderful day. Ladies and gentlemen...may I present Mr. & Mrs. _____.

Courtesy of the City of Flushing
Office of the Mayor

Sample Ceremony Two

Explanation of Marriage

You are about to enter into a union which is most serious. It is most serious because it will bind you together for life in a relationship so close and intimate that it will profoundly influence your whole future. That future, with its hopes and disappointments, its successes and its failure, its pleasures and its pains, its joys and its sorrows, is hidden from your eyes. You know that these elements are mingled in every life, and are to be expected in your own. And so, not knowing what is before you, you take each other for better or for worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health.

Truly, then, these words are most serious. It is a beautiful tribute to your loving faith in each other that, recognizing their importance, you are nevertheless, so willing and ready to pronounce them. And because the words involve such solemn obligations, it is most fitting that you rest the security of your wedded life upon the great principle of self-sacrifice. And so you begin your married life by the voluntary and complete surrender of your individual lives in the interest of that deeper and wider life which you two have in common. Henceforth, you will belong entirely to each other; you will be one in mind, one in heart and one in affection.

No greater blessing can come to your married life than pure matrimonial love, loyal and true to the end. May then this love with which you join your hands and hearts today never fail, but grow deeper and stronger as the years go on. And if true love and unselfish spirit of sacrifice guide your every action, you can expect the greatest measure of earthly happiness that may be allotted to each of you.

Exchange of Vows

(Mayor to the Groom)

Do you, _____, take this woman _____, to be your lawful wedded wife?

(Groom)

I _____, take thee, _____, for my lawful wife, to love, honor and keep you as a faithful husband is bound to do, in health and in sickness, in prosperity and adversity, and forsaking all others, keep myself only unto you.

(Mayor to the Bride)

Do you, _____, take this man _____, to be your lawful wedded husband?

(Bride)

I, _____, take thee, _____, for my lawful husband, to love, honor and keep you as a faithful wife is bound to do, in health and in sickness, in prosperity and adversity, and forsaking all others, keep myself only unto you.

Giving and Receiving of Rings

(Groom)

With this ring I thee wed, and pledge my faith.

(Bride)

With this ring I thee wed, and pledge my faith.

Conclusion

(Mayor)

For as much as _____ and _____ have consented to live together in wedlock, and having declared their intentions before these witnesses and no legal impediments having been shown, I _____, Mayor of the City of _____, do hereby join them together in wedlock and declare that they are now husband and wife.

Courtesy of the City of Southgate
Office of the Mayor

Sample Ceremony Three

Welcome

(Mayor)

Dear family and friends, we have gathered together here at this time to share in the joy and love of _____ and _____. Each of you has given something of yourself to help them become what they are, and each of you will have opportunities to give more to them to nurture their new relationship. May the love and affection that has brought them to this point continue to be a blessing to them. Please join in the celebration of this special event.

Explanation of Marriage and Declaration of Consents

(Mayor)

The marriage contract is the most cherished contract in our society because it forms the basis for our social structure. This solemn agreement between _____ and _____ has permanent legal standing, and we are serving as witnesses to it. By means of this ceremony, _____ and _____ will become united in a special new way. To this moment they bring the fullness of their hearts to share with one another; they bring the dreams which bind them together in spirit; they bring their individuality, which will be preserved, but out of which will emerge their life together.

(Mayor to the Bride)

_____ will you have this man to be your husband; to live together with him in the covenant of marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

(Bride)

I will

(Mayor to the Groom)

_____ will you have this woman to be your wife; to live together with her in the covenant of marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

(Groom)

I will

Exchange of Vows

(Groom: Facing the Bride and holding her right hand in his:)

I, _____, take you, _____, to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

(Bride: Facing the groom and holding his right hand in hers:)

I, _____, take you, _____, to be my husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

Giving and Receiving of Rings

(Mayor)

Each of you brings now a symbol of your love for each other. (The rings are presented by the attendants.)

These rings shall forevermore be a symbol of the love that you have declared and the vows that you have exchanged. The unbroken circles of these rings represent the special faithfulness that you have pledged to each other.

(Bride, receiving the ring from her attendant and taking the groom's left hand, places the ring on his finger and says:)

_____, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you.

(Groom, receiving the ring from his attendant and taking the bride's left hand, places the ring on her finger and says:)

_____, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you.

Conclusion

(Mayor)

Now that _____ and _____ have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, with the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of rings, and with you as witnesses, I pronounce that they are husband and wife. (The couple may embrace.)

(Mayor)

May all of us present today remember what we have seen and witnessed.
May each of us do everything within our power to support and strengthen
_____ and _____ as they journey together the road of life.

Courtesy of the City of Midland
Office of the Mayor

Sample Ceremony Four

Exchange of Vows

(Mayor to the Groom)

_____ will you have this woman to be your wife; and will you promise your faithfulness to her, in all love and honor, in all duty and service, and in all faith and tenderness, to live with her, and cherish her, according to the bonds of marriage?

(Groom)

I will

(Mayor to the Bride)

_____ will you have this man to be your husband, and will you promise your faithfulness to him, in all love and honor, in all duty and service, and in all faith and tenderness, to live with him and cherish him according to the bonds of marriage?

(Bride)

I will

Giving and Receiving of Rings

(Mayor to the Groom) Repeat after me:

I, _____ take you, _____, to be my wedded wife; and I promise to be your faithful husband, in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, as long we both shall life. This ring I give to you in token and pledge of our constant faith and abiding love.

(Mayor to Bride)Repeat after me:

I, _____, take you, _____, to be my wedded husband, and I promise to be your faithful wife, in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, as long as we both shall live. This ring I give to you in token and pledge of our constant faith and abiding love.

Conclusion

(Mayor)

By the authority vested in me as Mayor in and for the City of _____, County of _____, State of Michigan, I declare that you are now, husband and wife, in accordance with the laws of the State.

You may embrace.

Courtesy of the City of Midland
Office of the Mayor

Sample Ceremony Five

We are gathered here in the sight of God and the presence of these witnesses to join together this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony which is an honorable estate and is not to be entered into lightly or inadvisable, but reverently and discreetly.

_____ and _____, have you come here freely and without reservation to give yourself to each other in marriage?

I require and charge you both, to remember that love and loyalty alone will prevail as the foundation of a happy and enduring home, which will be full of joy and will abide in peace.

_____, will you have this woman _____, to be thy wedded wife, to live together in the estate of matrimony? Will you love her, honor her, and keep her in sickness and in health and forsaking all others so long as you both shall live?

_____, will you have this man _____, to be thy wedded husband, to live together in the estate of matrimony? Will you love him, honor him, and keep him in sickness and in health and in forsaking all others as you both shall live?

I, _____, take you _____, to be my wedded wife to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish till death do us part.

I, _____, take you _____, to be my wedded husband to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish till death do us part.

“In token and in pledge, of the vow between us given, I thee wed.”

Now, by the authority in me vested by the laws of this State, and the office of Mayor, which I now hold, I pronounce you Husband and Wife.

Date

Honorable Mayor _____

Courtesy of the City of Burton
Office of the Mayor