



COUNTY CLERK

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INSTRUCTION PACKET FOR
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF CIVIL MARRIAGES
Sworn-In For One Day Only

Congratulations on becoming a Deputy Commissioner of Civil Marriages. Your commission is valid for one civil ceremony to be performed in the State of California only.

On the day of the ceremony, the bride and groom must provide you with a valid marriage license. Please verify that the license has not expired. If the couple obtained a Confidential Marriage License the marriage must be performed in the county the license was obtained. If the couple obtained a Public Marriage License the marriage may be performed anywhere in the State of California.

It is the responsibility of the Deputy Commissioner of Marriages to complete the license and return it to the county from which it was issued within ten (10) days from the date of the ceremony; Family Code §359(e). Please return the completed marriage license in the self address envelope provided.

Also attached for your convenience, is a copy of the standard civil ceremony used within the Merced County Clerks office. You may use any ceremony of your choice as long as the parties declare in the presence of the person solemnizing the marriage that they take each other as husband and wife; Family Code §420. Also you must end the ceremony with the wording, "By virtues of the authority vested in me as Deputy Commissioner of Marriages, I now pronounce you Husband and Wife."

Should you have any questions regarding the ceremony or the completion of the license, please feel free to call our office at (209)385-7627.

THE CEREMONY

We are gathered here today for the purpose of uniting in Marriage _____ and _____. I remind you both to remember that love, loyalty and understanding are the foundations of a happy and enduring home.

No other human ties are more tender and no other vows are more important than those you are about to assume. If you both keep these vows, your home will be happy and full of joy.

The contract of marriage is most solemn. It is not to be entered into lightly, but thoughtfully and seriously, and with the deep realization of its obligations and responsibilities.

_____,do you take _____, to be your lawful wedded Wife, promising to love and comfort her, to honor her and keep her, in sickness and in health, in prosperity and adversity, and forsaking all others, be faithful to her? (I do)

_____,do you take _____, to be your lawful wedded Husband, promising to love and comfort him, to honor him and keep him, in sickness and in health, in prosperity and adversity, and forsaking all others, be faithful to him? (I do)

Groom Repeats:

I, _____, take thee, _____, to be my lawful wedded Wife, to have and to hold-from this day forward-for better or for worse-for richer or poorer-in sickness and in health-to love and to cherish.

Bride Repeats:

I, _____, take thee, _____, to be my lawful wedded Husband, to have and to hold-from this day forward-for better or for worse-for richer or poorer-in sickness and in health-to love and to cherish.

Groom and Bride Repeat:

This ring I give, in token of my abiding love. With this ring I thee wed.

Now that you have joined yourselves in solemn matrimony, may you strive all of your lives to meet this commitment with the same love and devotion that you possess here today.

By virtue of the authority vested in me as a Deputy Commissioner of Civil Marriages, I now pronounce you Husband and Wife.