

*An Asking provides couples the opportunity to say "I Do" or "We Do". An Asking may be placed at the commencement of the ceremony or prior to the vows.*

*Below are some examples of 'Askings'*

### **The Asking**

NAME and NAME, do you come here freely, and without reservation, to enter a marriage as companions living together as one, enjoying equality? We do  
Do you promise to love, respect, assist and look after each other for the rest of your lives? We do  
Are you prepared to live in harmony and jointly strive for the welfare of your family? We are

NAME Have you/Do you come here today of your own free will and without reservation, to take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your husband, to live together as equal partners sharing all that life has to offer?"

"Do you \_\_\_\_\_, take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your lawfully wedded wife, promising to love and cherish, through joy and sorrow, sickness and health, and whatever challenges you may face, for as long as you both shall live?"

"Do you \_\_\_\_\_, take \_\_\_\_\_, to be your partner in life and sharing your path; equal in love, a mirror for your true self, promising to honour and cherish, through good times and bad, until death do you part?"

Do you \_\_\_\_\_, take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your (wife/husband), to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish; from this day forward until death do you part?"

"Do you \_\_\_\_\_ choose \_\_\_\_\_ to be your partner in life, to support and respect (her/him) in (his/her) successes and as well (his/her) failures, to care for (him/her) in sickness and in health, to nurture (him/her), and to grow with (him/her) throughout the seasons of your life together?"

"Do you \_\_\_\_\_, accept \_\_\_\_\_ as your life mate and one true love, promising to share in all that life offers and suffers, to be there for (him/her) in times of need, to soothe (him/her) in times of pain, and to support (him/her) in all endeavours, big and small."

\_\_\_\_\_, Have you come here today of your own free will to take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your husband, that you may live together as equal partners sharing all that life has to offer?"

(Answer): "I have."

"Will you love him, comfort him, honour and keep him all the days of your life?"

(Answer): "I will."

Will you \_\_\_\_\_ offer yourself to \_\_\_\_\_ as your wife,  
Your friend, your lover and your lifelong companion.

Will you share your life with hers; build your dreams together, support her through times of trouble,

And rejoice with her in times of happiness;

Will you treat her with respect, love and loyalty through all the trials and triumphs of your lives together.

This commitment is made in love, kept in faith, lived in hope, And eternally made new.

\_\_\_\_\_, will you receive \_\_\_\_\_ as your husband?

Will you pledge to him your love, faith and tenderness,

cherishing him with a husband/wife's loyalty and devotion?

(Answer): I will.

Do you (name) take (name) to be your lawful wedded wife/husband? (each responds, "I do.") Will you love, respect and honour her/him throughout your years together? (each responds, "I will.")

Will you, GROOM, cherish BRIDE as your lawful wedded wife, protecting her, and tending to her needs through illness and disappointment?

GROOM says, "I will"

Will you strive to understand her, giving her comfort when she seeks it from you? Will you try never to say in anger that which you wouldn't say in friendship? And when each night comes, will you go to sleep with thanks for her presence at your side and renewed love for her in your heart?

GROOM says, "I will."

Will you, BRIDE, cherish GROOM as your lawful wedded husband, protecting him, and tending to his needs through illness and disappointment?

BRIDE says, "I will"

Will you strive to understand him, giving him comfort when he seeks it from you? Will you try never to say in anger that which you wouldn't say in friendship? And when each night comes, will you go to sleep with thanks for his presence at your side and renewed love for his in your heart?

BRIDE says, "I will."

Your marriage begins with the vows and promises you speak to one another today.

The marriage vow is a promise of fidelity and honesty.

GROOM, do you love BRIDE willingly and completely, withholding nothing? Will you protect her, and give her your deepest considerations of her feelings, desires and needs?

GROOM says, "I will"

Will you strive to keep your love flexible and adapt to changing circumstances in the marriage? And will you be BRIDE's counsellor, helpmate, sweetheart & lover, and her best friend, from this day forward?

GROOM says, "I will"

BRIDE, do you love GROOM willingly and completely, withholding nothing? Will you protect him, and give him your deepest considerations of his feelings, desires and needs?

BRIDE says, "I will"

Will you strive to keep your love flexible and adapt to changing circumstances in the marriage? And will you be GROOM's counsellor, helpmate, sweetheart & lover, and his best friend, from this day forward?

BRIDE says, "I will"

Do you, GROOM, welcome BRIDE as your wife, offering her your love and encouragement, your trust and respect, as together you create your future?

GROOM says, "I do".

Do you, BRIDE welcome GROOM as your husband, offering him your love and encouragement, your trust and respect, as together you create your future

BRIDE says, "I do".

We are here today, to celebrate the love, which BRIDE and GROOM have for each other, and to give social recognition to their decision to commit their lives and accept each other totally.

Do you GROOM take BRIDE, to be your lawfully wedded wife, to share your life openly, standing with her in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, in hardship and in ease, to cherish and love forever more?

GROOM says, "I do."

Do you BRIDE take GROOM, to be your lawfully wedded husband, to share your life openly, standing with him in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, in hardship and in ease, to cherish and love forever more?

BRIDE says, "I do."

BRIDE and GROOM, by coming here today, you have reached a crossroads in your lives. You're turning away from your yesterdays and looking ahead to your tomorrows. Your past is a distant memory. Your future a waiting adventure.

It is a new dawn, a new commitment, a new life.

The bonds you are forging today will change your lives forever.

Do you, GROOM, promise to take BRIDE to be your wife?

To play with her and care for her; to make her laugh, and let her cry?

To offer your best counsel and give your sincerest support with all the love you have to give?

"I do."

Is it your choice that BRIDE be the one with whom you wish to spend your life?

"It is."

Do you, BRIDE, promise to take GROOM to be your husband?

To play with him and care for him; to make him laugh, and let him cry?

To offer your best counsel and give your sincerest support with all the love you have to give?

"I do."

Is it your choice that BRIDE be the one with whom you wish to spend your life?

"It is."

Do you GROOM promise to love BRIDE and respect her, to share your life and your dreams, to build with her a home that is a place of love, happiness, commitment and growth?

"I do"

Do you promise to be a companion to her in all of her successes and failures, her happiness and sadness, to always give to her your unwavering support and above all else, the freedom to be BRIDE?

"I do"

Do you BRIDE promise to love GROOM and respect him, to share your life and your dreams, to build with him a home that is a place of love, happiness, commitment and growth?

"I do"

Do you promise to be a companion to him in all of his successes and failures, his happiness and sadness, to always give to him your unwavering support and above all else, the freedom to be GROOM?

"I do"

GROOM, do you take BRIDE to be the wife of your days, the companion of your heart and the friend of your life? To stand united in the face of adversity and bask together in the light of good fortune? With these words spoken, and all those as yet unspoken, do you wish to marry BRIDE and join your life with hers?

"I do."

BRIDE, do you take GROOM to be the husband of your days, the companion of your heart and the friend of your life? To stand united in the face of adversity and bask together in the light of good fortune? With these words spoken, and all those as yet unspoken, do you wish to marry GROOM and join your life with his?

"I do."

Do you GROOM promise to love BRIDE freely – without restrictions; honestly – without deceit; now – without hesitation?

"I do."

Do you promise to accept her just as she is, sharing with her and supporting her through the experiences of your lives, be they easy or difficult, happy or sad, challenging or mundane, till death do you part?

"I do."

Do you BRIDE promise to love GROOM freely – without restrictions; honestly – without deceit; now – without hesitation?

"I do."

Do you promise to accept him just as he is, sharing with him and supporting him through the experiences of your lives, be they easy or difficult, happy or sad, challenging or mundane, till death do you part?

"I do."

Do you, GROOM, take you BRIDE, in the presence of God and our family and friends as witnesses, to be your wife, your partner in life and your one true love?

Groom says, "I do."

Do you now make a lifetime commitment to be a considerate, tender, faithful, loving husband, to encourage, comfort and cherish her in times of prosperity as well as in times of trouble?

Groom says, "I do."

And do you pledge to establish a loving home for your own family, to make her and your children the priority in your life, and to nurture your special relationship always?

Groom says, "I do."

Do you, BRIDE, take you GROOM, in the presence of God and our family and friends as witnesses, to be your husband, your partner in life and your one true love?

Bride, says, "I do."

Do you now make a lifetime commitment to be a considerate, tender, faithful, loving wife to encourage, comfort and cherish him in times of prosperity as well as in times of trouble?

Bride, says, "I do."

And do you pledge to establish a loving home for your own family, to make him and your children the priority in your life, and to nurture your special relationship always?

Bride, says, "I do."

This new journey will be at times richly rewarding and extremely difficult, but, most importantly, it will be a journey you take together. Marriage is much more than your signatures on a legal contract. You are promising, and have asked all of these people you love to watch you make this promise, that you want to be with each other and only each other for the rest of your lives, and that you will do everything in your power to honour the promises you are making here today. For their part, the people who love you will also do everything in their power to try to help you hold up your end of the bargain, too.

GROOM, do you take BRIDE to be your wife, promising to love her, comfort, honour, respect, and care for her for the rest of your life?

"I do."

BRIDE, do you take GROOM to be your husband, promising to love him, comfort, honour, respect, and care for him for the rest of your life?

"I do."

GROOM, do you come here today, in the presence of these witnesses, with love in your heart and with a conscious desire to be united in marriage with BRIDE? Do you promise to share the responsibility for growth and enrichment of your lives together and to give to BRIDE all the loving support she needs to become the person she is destined to be?

"I do"

BRIDE, do you come here today, in the presence of these witnesses, with love in your heart and with a conscious desire to be united in marriage with GROOM? Do you promise to share the responsibility for growth and enrichment of your lives together and to give to GROOM all the loving support he needs to become the person he is destined to be?

"I do"

GROOM, do you here in the presence of family and friends, declare your love for and commitment to BRIDE, choosing her as your life partner and soul mate? Do you freely offer yourself to her and willingly accept the gift of self she offers to you?

"I do"

BRIDE, do you here in the presence of family and friends, declare your love for and commitment to GROOM, choosing him as your life partner and soul mate? Do you freely offer yourself to him and willingly accept the gift of self he offers to you?

"I do"

Having acknowledged the deep value of marriage, and recognising marriage as the convergence of your individual and joint destinies as well as the greatest support for them, do you both choose to marry, to speak the words that will bind you as husband and wife, allowing you to become most fully yourself in each other's presence for the rest of your days?"

"We do."

Know now before you go further, that since your lives have crossed in this life you have formed ties between each other. As you seek to enter this state of matrimony you should strive to make real, the ideals which give meaning to both this ceremony and the institution of marriage.

With full awareness, know that within this circle you are not only declaring your intent to be hand-fast before your friends and family, but you speak that intent also to your creative highest powers.

The promises made today and the ties that are bound here greatly strengthen your union; they will cross the years and lives of each soul's growth.

Do you still seek to enter this ceremony?

Yes, We Seek to Enter.

GROOM do you take BRIDE whom you now hold by the Hand to be your lawful wedded wife?

GROOM says, "I Do".

Do you promise to love and cherish her, in sickness and in health, for richer for poorer, for better for worse, and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto her, for so long as you both shall live?

GROOM says, "I Do".

BRIDE do you take GROOM whom you now hold by the hand to be your lawful wedded husband?

BRIDE says, "I do".

Do you promise to love and cherish him, in sickness and in health, for richer for poorer, for better for worse, and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto him, for so long as you both shall live?

BRIDE says, "I do".

Do you mutually promise you will love, cherish and respect one another throughout the years?

BRIDE and GROOM say, "We do".

From this day onward, do you choose BRIDE to be your wife, your best friend and your only love?

To live together, play together and laugh together;

To work by her side and dream in her arms;

To fill her heart and feed her soul;

To always seek out the best in her;

Always loving her with all your heart, until the end of your forever?

If so, say, "I do!"

From this day onward, do you choose GROOM to be your husband, your best friend and your only love?

To live together, play together and laugh together;

To work by his side and dream in his arms;

To fill his heart and feed his soul;

To always seek out the best in him;

Always loving him with all your heart, until the end of your forever?

If so, say, "I do!"

Bride and Groom, If you are ready to step into the holy circle of matrimony, assuming all its rights, obligations and abundant joys, please so indicate by joining hands.

Do you, Bride take this man, Groom as your husband, to love him and to honour him, to nurture, serve and support him, in times of joy and in times of difficulty? Do you promise to remain by his side regardless of what trouble befalls you, and in the presence of temptation

to forsake this love, do you promise to remain steadfast and true? Do you promise with all your heart and soul to honour this vow till death do you part?

If so, answer now, "I do."

Bride answers, "I do."

Do you, Groom take this woman, Bride as your wife, to love her and to honour her, to nurture, serve and support her, in times of joy and in times of difficulty? Do you promise to remain by her side regardless of what trouble befalls you, and in the presence of temptation to forsake this love, do you promise to remain steadfast and true? Do you promise with all your heart and soul to honour this vow till death do you part?

If so answer now, "I do."

Groom answers, "I do."

Will you \_\_\_\_\_, have this man/woman from this day forward to be your wedded wife/husband, to live together (in God's love) in the sacred state of matrimony?

Do you promise to love her/him, comfort her/him, honour and cherish her/him, in sickness and health, in trying times and smooth, in lean times and full, all the days of your lives? If so, say, "I do."

GROOM, will you have this woman to be your wife to live together in the covenant of marriage? Do you promise to love her, comfort her, honour and keep her, in sickness and in health; forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live? If so, say, "I do."  
BRIDE, will you have this man to be your husband to live together in the covenant of marriage? Do you promise to love him, comfort him, honour and keep him, in sickness and in health; forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live? If so, say, "I do."

\_\_\_\_\_, will you take \_\_\_\_\_, to be your wedded wife/husband, to love, to cherish, to continually bestow upon her your heart's deepest devotion? If so, say, "I will."

GROOM, do you take BRIDE, for your lawfully wedded wife, to love and cherish from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health?

If so, say, "I do."

BRIDE, do you take GROOM, for your lawfully wedded husband to love and cherish from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health?

If so, say, "I do."

Will you, \_\_\_\_\_ have this man/woman from this day forward to be your wedded wife/husband, in times of celebration, in times of sadness, in times of pleasure and in times of pain, in times of sickness and times of health? If so, say, "I will."

The apostle Paul compared the relationship between husband and wife to that between Christ and the church. Marriage is a decision of two individuals to share the same type of pure, Christian love described by Paul in I Corinthians 13:4-8 – 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 selfish, it is not easily angered, and 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 is always ready to endure whatever comes. Love never fails...

Two lives, shared with this kind of love, can hold more fulfilment and happiness than either life alone.

\_\_\_\_\_, are you ready to enter into marriage with \_\_\_\_\_, believing the love you share and your faith in each other will endure all things? If so, say, "I am."

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, as you come this day to affirm your love and commitment, may you always remember to value each other as special and unique individuals, and that you respect each other's thoughts, ideas and feelings. May you be able to forgive and to forget when wronged, and live each day that you may share it together – as from this day forward you will be each others' home, comfort and sanctuary.

\_\_\_\_\_, will you embrace/take \_\_\_\_\_ as your wife/husband; As your companion and best friend for life? Will you treat her/him with love and devotion, honor and respect? Will

you stand by her/him in the triumphs and tragedies of life, as a faithful and caring wife/ husband? If so, say, "I will."

\_\_\_\_\_, will you love \_\_\_\_\_ when you are together and when you are apart; when life is peaceful and when it is disordered; when you are proud of her/him and when you are disappointed in her/him; in times of leisure and in times of work; will you honor her/his goals and dreams and help her/him fulfill them? If so, say, "I will."

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, of all the people you know, you have chosen one another as life partners. Are you ready to be married? If so, say, "we are."

Do you BRIDE'S NAME) take GROOM'S NAME to be your husband – to live together after God's ordinance – in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health, for richer, for poorer, for better, for worse, in sadness and in joy, to cherish and continually bestow upon him your heart's deepest devotion, forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto him as long as you both shall live? If so, say, "I will."

From this day onward, do you choose \_\_\_\_\_ to be your husband/wife, your best friend and your only love?

To live together, play together and laugh together;

To work by her/his side and dream in her/his arms;

To fill her/his heart and feed her/his soul;

To always seek out the best in her/him;

Always loving her/him with all your heart, until the end of your forever?

If so, Say, "I do!"

Dear friends, marriage is a legal relationship which is one of the foundations of community and society. It is, therefore, a public and civil relationship which expects all other people to honour and respect it, as our Supreme Court has now fully recognised. Marriage is also a spiritual relationship – a covenant of heart and soul, and a shelter for love and intimacy. Marriage is not to be entered into lightly, but is to be understood by all as a lifelong connection of two lives, two hearts, two fortunes and two futures. Marriage involves both privileges and obligations.

Because of this, I ask you:

Do each of you enter this union freely and without coercion? If so, say, "I do."

Are you prepared to accept both the rights and responsibilities of married life? If so, say, "I am."

Is it your intention to support, honour, defend and uphold one another in all circumstances? If so, say, "Yes, with the help of God."

(Name) do you take (name) to be your lawful wedded wife/husband? (each responds, "I do.") Do you promise to love and cherish her/him, in sickness and in health, for richer for poorer, for better for worse, and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto her/him, for so long as you both shall live? (each responds, "I do.") Do you together promise in the presence of your friends and family that you will at all times and in all circumstances, conduct yourselves toward one another as becomes Husband and Wife? (Together they respond, "We do.") Do you together promise you will love, cherish and respect one another throughout the years? (Together they respond, "We do.")

(Name), do you pledge to love (name) and throughout your years together to be honest, faithful, and kind to her/him? Do you pledge to give to her/him the same happiness she/he gives to you, and to respect her for who she is, not who you want her to be? (each responds, "I do.")

Bride and Groom, you have written this promise together and undertake it here today with each other. You have prepared these words to reflect your intentions both as individuals and as a couple. You agree, that your marriage to one another is eternal and as important as life itself We do That to support each other through all life's adventures is the answer to a long and happy life together We do That long lasting happiness requires energy, caring

and dedication We do You promise that the family you have created since you met will always be full with the joy and happiness that brings you here to this special place and this special day We do

Groom do you take Bride to be your lawful wedded wife, to love and to care for her and your children, through sickness and in health, And from this day forward to live together in accordance with your vows of marriage? Groom: I will, I will also love you, trust you, encourage and comfort and protect you for as long as we both shall live. I promise to fill your life with love, and with laughter. I promise to be honest and faithful to you and to always cherish you. I pledge to respect your unique talents and abilities, to lend you strength for all of your dreams. As I have given you my hand to hold, I give you my life to keep.

### **Family examples**

Because of the vows they have taken today, BRIDE and GROOM have created a whole new family. To make their commitment to that new family complete, they wish to include their children: NAMES OF CHILDREN and recognise them as an integral part of this marriage (giving them each a medallion to symbolise their new family unity).

Do you \_\_\_\_\_ take (children of spouse) to be the (son/daughter) children of your heart, to love and to hug, in tears and in laughter, through successes and growing pains, as long as you shall all be together?"I do."

Do you (children) take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your step- (mom/dad) and your friend, accomplice and ally, to love and to hug, as long as you shall all be together?"I (we) do."

(Do you, Bride's children & Groom's children, each take the other(s) to be your (sister/brother) and your friend(s), through fights and through fun, as long as you shall all be together?"We do."

Do you, (Parent), promise to support these relationships, to give them room to breathe, to encourage their special bonds with each other and love them through it all?"I do".