

Recognition of Children and Family

During the ceremony is a good time to include family members by recognizing and mentioning them. In a second marriage the children of the first marriages can be recognized and included as part of the ceremony. Presentation of flowers or gifts can also be part of the recognition.

Recognition of Parents and Family is usually done before the Vows and Rings. Recognition of Children is usually done after the Vows and Rings. Presentation of Roses to Mothers can be done after the Recognition of Parents or done just after the Unity Candle Lighting which is usually after the Vows and Rings.

1.

Recognition of Parents and Families

To the parents of Bde and Grm, congratulations on the part you have played in raising a daughter and son of such serious purpose. They accept a very mature and meaningful task in taking on this marriage. On their behalf, and on behalf of everyone here, I thank you.

With this marriage we are not only joining these two separate lives, but also we are joining your two families. I remind you that it is more than their blood that is joined here; it is yours as well.

With this in mind, I ask you, Bde's parents, to take this man, Grm, as your son. I ask your family to take him into their hearts, as son and brother, and beloved to Bde.

And of you, Grm's parents, I ask the same. I ask that you take this woman, Bde, into your hearts, that she might live from this day as your daughter. I ask the family as well to receive her as their sister, for she is dear and beloved to Grm.

May the blessing of this marriage extend throughout your families.

2.

There can be a Presentation of Roses combined with a musical interlude.

Presentation of Roses

Music

The Bride and Groom present roses to their

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*Mothers and Grandmothers
or
Parents and Grandparents.*

3.

Recognition of Chld (names)

Often marriage is viewed as the union of two individuals. In reality, however, marriage is much broader. As we give thanks to God for the love which brings Grm and Bde together, so too, we recognize the merging of families taking place and the additional love and responsibility family and friends bring to the relationship.

As part of the family nature of God's creation we recognize Chld and the significant role he/she/they play(s) in this marriage celebrated today.

Presentation of Gifts to Chld (names)

Grm and Bde present to Chld this (special gift, ring, necklace, memento) in recognition of the hope and joy made visible through this marriage.

The Bride and Groom present the gifts.

4.

Vow to Children – Read by Groom/Bride

Vow to Chld (names)

Acknowledging his/her commitment to this marriage and this family, Grm/Bde, will make his/her vow to Chld.

The Officiant hands a copy of the Vow to the Bride/ Groom.

Bride/Groom: Chld, I promise to be there as a Father/Mother to you, to protect you, to support and comfort you, and our family, and to love you all the days of my life.

The Bride/Groom returns the copy to the Officiant.

5.

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Vow to Children – I do

Vow to Chld (names)

Acknowledging his/her commitment to this marriage and this family, Bde/Grm, will make his/her vow to Chld.

To Bride/Groom: Grm/Bde, do you promise to accept and love Chld, as your own, and to protect and love him/her/them all of your life. Promising to do your best to guide and support him/her/them - and to respect him/her/them enough to allow him/her/them to see the world through his/her/their own eyes?

Groom/Bride: I do.

6.

Vow to Children – I will

Vow to Chld (names)

Acknowledging his/her commitment to this marriage and this family, Grm/Bde will make his/her vow to Chld.

To Groom/Bride: Grm/Bde, will you be there as a Father/Mother to Chld, to protect him/her/them, to support and comfort him/her/them, and your family, and to love him/her/them all the days of your life?

Groom/Bride: I will.

7.

Gift of a Rose to Children

Recognition of Chld (names)

Not only are Bde and Grm creating a marriage today, but they also are forming a family with Chld. Bde and Grm to wish to show Chld how much they love him/her/them, with the gift of a rose and a promise.

To Bride/Groom: Grm/Bde, do you promise to accept and love Chld, as your own, and to protect and love him/her/them all of your life. Promising to do your best to guide and support him/her/them - and to respect him/her/them enough to allow him/her/them to see the world through his/her/their own eyes?

Groom/Bride: "I do."

*The Bride and Groom give each child a rose, a hug,
and whisper "I love you."*

8.

In place of a Vow to Children, this paragraph can be read by the Officiant.

Grm and Bde strive to be an influence on their children's lives by listening to them, respecting their uniqueness and individuality, by teaching, suggesting and coaching, and by modeling. They commit to giving them the freedom to find their own way, standing by them when they need it and standing aside when it is time for them to seek their personal destinies. They pledge to them their goal to create a family atmosphere that is full of love, comfort and secure, and a place where they all can grow to their fullest potential.

9.

Instead of just introducing the couple, the entire new family can be introduced.

Introduction of the Family

It is my pleasure to present to you Grm and Bde, in their new relationship as husband and wife, and their son/daughter/children Chld. It is my honor to present to you the (name) family.

10.

Vow to Children

I have pledged my love to you and promised to be a faithful husband/wife. Now I want to add another, different kind of vow. I promise to love (Children's Names) for all of our days and

to treat them as my own children. I gladly accept the obligations that go along with this pledge. I love (Children's Names) and want them to be part of my life.

11.

Children's Unity Candle Ceremony

Bde and Grm light the candles that represent their love for each other and for (Child's Name). From the uniqueness of these separate flames, they kindle a larger and brighter flame that represents the union between (Groom's, Bride's and Child's Names). The side candles remain burning to symbolize the continuing importance of the individual integrity within the marriage relationship. The greater height of the center candle depicts their belief that together they can become more than either could alone.

12.

Recognition of Children – After Ring Exchange

Grm and Bde, the rings you have given to one another are symbols of your commitment to one another, but they are also more. For today you are also making a commitment to Children. Today you are pledging your love to them as well, committing to them that you will create a family together. Let the perfect circle of the wedding ring embrace Children as well as the two of you. For our children are gifts entrusted to us.

Children Names, please come forward.

Presentation of Gifts to Children

The Bride and Groom present necklaces, rings, etc.