

# ISLAND WEDDINGS

**CALL US 409-621-1250**

## OPTION ONE

Today we honor the love BRIDE and GROOM have discovered in each other, and support your decision to promise yourselves to one another for the rest of your lives. Who presents this woman to this man in marriage? It is said that one does not fall in love, but grows in love. And now we celebrate this love, which draws you forward in a lasting commitment, one to the other, creating a new family and an inseparable bond.

GROOM do you take BRIDE to be your wife, to live together in the estate of marriage, to love her, comfort her, honor and keep her in sickness and in health, forsaking all others, be true and loyal to her now and forever more?

BRIDE do you take GROOM to be your husband, to live together in the estate of marriage, to love him, comfort him, honor and keep him in sickness and in health, forsaking all others, be true and loyal to him now and forever more?

The vows you are about to exchange will join your lives, you both bring individual strengths and weaknesses to this marriage, as you stand here together today may you compliment each other fulfill each others needs as your love and commitment continue to deepen throughout your married lives.

I GROOM, take you BRIDE, from this day forward, as my wife, my partner and my best friend. I promise to take you to my heart, as you are and as you will be. I will walk by your side forever, grow together with you, and love you more tomorrow, than I do today. I will support your dreams, and be there for you, for the rest of our lives.

I BRIDE, take you GROOM, from this day forward, as my husband, my partner and my best friend. I promise to take you to my heart, as you are and as you will be. I will walk by your side forever, grow together with you, and love you more tomorrow, than I do today. I will support your dreams, and be there for you, for the rest of our lives.

The wedding rings are symbols of the vows here taken, circles of unending faith and commitment, perfect in form, representing the Beginning of a long journey together, one filled with wonder, surprises, laughter, tears, celebration, grief and joy. May these rings seal your vows of marriage to one another forever. "With this ring, I thee wed, I give you this ring as a token of my faithfulness and love, and to share with you all that I have and all that I am." (Repeated)

Now you will feel no rain - for each of you will be shelter to the other.

Now you will feel no cold - for each of you will be warmth to the other.

Now there will be no loneliness - for each of you will be comfort to the other.

Now you are two persons, but there is only one life together before you.

May beauty and happiness surround you both in the journey ahead and through all the years

And may your days together be good and long upon this earth

Let us Pray; Dear God, We thank you for this beautiful day and we thank you for GROOM and BRIDE. We thank you for having brought them safely thus far on their life's journey. We pray that as you join their hands and hearts together to become husband and wife, that you will bless them, and that you will give them strength and courage as they face all of the tasks and decisions that lie before them. Lord, We also ask that you bless the rings they have exchanged and may GROOM and BRIDE ever abide in your peace living together in unity, love and happiness. Amen

GROOM and BRIDE you have declared that you will live together in marriage. You have made special promises to each other, which have been witnessed by the joining of hands, the exchanging of vows and the giving and receiving of rings. By the authority vested in me by laws of the State of Texas, I now pronounce you to be husband and wife.

Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder. GROOM, you may kiss your WIFE.

Congratulations Mr. & Mrs. Groom

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#### OPTION TWO

We are gathered, here today to celebrate the union in marriage of GROOM and BRIDE.

Marriage is the honorable estate in which man and woman pledge to be true to each other and in the process become truly one. It should therefore be entered reverently, discretely, and advisedly.

GROOM do you take BRIDE to be your wife, to live together in the estate of marriage, to love her, comfort her, honor and keep her in sickness and in health, forsaking all others, keep only to her as long as you both shall live?

BRIDE do you take GROOM to be your husband, to live together in the estate of marriage, to love him, comfort him, honor and keep him in sickness and in health, forsaking all others, keep only to him as long as you both shall live?

Marriage is sustained by love. Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; arrogant or rude. A marriage sustained by love creates feelings of security and contentment and creates a lifelong partnership in which husband and wife experience the joy of simply being together.

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

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

The rings exchanged as a symbol of GROOM and BRIDE's marriage remind us that the ring is without beginning or end. It is made of a rare and precious element. It is a visible sign to both of you and to all the world of your spoken vows today.

"As a symbol of my love, I give you this, ring and I thee wed." (Repeated)

The wish for GROOM and BRIDE is that your hearts and lives be joined in the deepest and truest sense of the word; that you enjoy all the comforts, endure all the challenges and perform all the duties of life together; that you do not demand perfection but be quick to praise each others strengths; that you always see each other through a lover's kind and patient eyes; that you give a part of yourselves to the other, yet retain your distinct personalities and identities and that, when the sun is setting, may you be found, standing hand in hand as you are today, still remembering the words:

"GROW OLD ALONG WITH ME; THE BEST IS YET TO BE"

Since GROOM and BRIDE have consented to be husband and wife and have expressed their love and pledged their lives, by the joining of hands, the exchanging of vows, and the giving and receiving of rings, I pronounce that you are husband and wife. GROOM you may kiss your bride.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN I PRESENT TO YOU, MR. AND MRS. GROOM NAME.

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#### ADDING CHILDREN TO CEREMONY

Today is a special day as we are not only witnessing the marriage of this wonderful couple, today we are also witnessing the creation of a new family. Family is sacred and so are the precious children God has entrusted to us as gifts. (When the children are older I also add "regardless of how old they are").

GROOM Do you vow to love and care for "Bride's child/children name/names" as your own, to guide them/her/him spiritually and emotionally, and to support his/her/their goals and ambitions in life as a parent? (Response "yes, I do")

BRIDE Do you vow to love and care for "Groom's child/children name/names" as your own, to guide them/her/him spiritually and emotionally, and to support his/her/their goals and ambitions in life as a parent? (Response "yes, I do")

Children did you just hear the bride and groom make special promises to each of you, well I am going to ask each of you to make a promise to them as well.

CHILD/CHILDREN Do you promise to love and respect GROOM'S NAME and welcome him into your family forever? (Response "I do")

CHILD/CHILDREN Do you promise to love and respect BRIDE'S NAME and welcome her into your family forever? (Response "I do")

Let's have a family hug!!!!!!!

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VOW RENEWAL

Good relationships never stop growing. Like fine wine, they get better with age. GROOM and BRIDE, you have now been married 4 years and through those years of your journey together, you have over come many challenges and have done so with love; you have now come to this beautiful setting, so that you could renew those vows and commitment of love for each other.

As you continue on your journey together, I ask you to remember this advice: That marriage is a precious gift; a lifelong dedication to love and a daily challenge to love one another more fully and more freely. Let your love be stronger than your anger. Learn the wisdom of compromise, for it is better to bend than to break. Believe the best of your beloved rather than the worst. Confide in your partner and ask for help when you need it. Remember that true friendship is the basis for any lasting relationship. Give your spouse the same courtesies and kindnesses you bestow on your friends. Say "I love you" every day.

With this understanding, do you GROOM, continue to take BRIDE as your beloved wife? Will you continue to be a tender, faithful husband? Will you continue to love and cherish her, in sickness and in health, for richer for poorer, for better for worse, and keep yourself only unto her as long as you both shall live?

With this understanding, do you BRIDE, continue to take GROOM as your beloved husband? Will you continue to be a tender, faithful wife? Will you continue to love and cherish him, in sickness and in health, for richer for poorer, for better for worse, and keep yourself only unto him as long as you both shall live?

Both of you believe in marriage, in the fullness of the husband and a wife relationship, and you know that a deep bond unites you both. It must do so because all of the challenges of the past have not weakened your love, but have only made you more determined to stick by each other, showing that this relationship is very strong, deep and filled with as much love today as it was Four years ago.

Four years ago, I GROOM took you BRIDE, to be my wife, my partner and my best friend. To accept you as you are and as you will be, to walk by your side forever, grow together with you and that my love for you will grow more each day with the passing years. This day I re-affirm that vow and once more commit to these promises.

Four years ago, I BRIDE took you GROOM, to be my husband, my partner and my best friend. To accept you as you are and as you will be, to walk by your side forever, grow together with you and that my love for you will grow more each day with the passing years. This day I re-affirm that vow and once more commit to these promises.

We pray Lord that GROOM and BRIDE continue as best friends. Please guide them tomorrow and all the tomorrows that follow, that they will continue to renew their friendship and their love through their work, and their children. Lord help them to continue knowing the meaning of Forever, and remind them to never forget their marriage is a continual outgrowth of a deep and intimate friendship that began the day they were

married, the day they vowed to love, honor, and cherish one another for life. O Lord, bless them now and always. Amen

May the sun bring you new energy by day. May the moon softly restore you by night. May the rain wash away your worries. And may you live the days of your lives in peace, love, and happiness.

GROOM and BRIDE, having witnessed your vows of affirmation, the joining of hands, and by the authority of love itself, I do affirm that you have expressed your desire to continue as husband and wife. Congratulations Mr. & Mrs. GROOM.

You may seal your vows with a kiss.

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#### SAND CEREMONY OPTIONS OPTION ONE (COUPLE ONLY)

GROOM and BRIDE, may your love always be as constant as the never-ending waves, flowing endlessly from the depths of the sea. Just as the waters touch and nourish the many shores of the earth, may your love be a moving sea between the shores of your souls. Just as there will never be a morning without the ocean's flow, there will never be a day without your love for each other. You have just sealed your relationship by the giving and receiving of rings. This union, is symbolized through the combining of these two individual containers of sand. The sand poured by me, represents the foundation of God in your lives and is from the Beach in Galveston as a reminder of where you were joined in Holy Matrimony, The two containers represents each of you all that you were, all that you are, and all that you will ever be. Each one holds its own unique beauty, strength, and character. They can stand on their own and be whole, without need of anything else. However, when these two are blended together they create an entirely new and extraordinarily more intricate entity. Each grain of sand brings to the mixture a lasting beauty that forever enriches the combination. Please pour your sand into the container to symbolize the joining of your two lives. Just as these grains of sand can never be separated and poured again into the individual containers, so will your marriage be a molding of two families, two lives, and two individual personalities, bonded together forming one heart, one love, your lives are hereafter forever united, for the two have become one.

#### OPTIONS ONE (A) (COUPLE ONLY)

Glass, itself, is made from sand and the sands of time have come together, melting into one piece to make this vessel. The sands of time should remind us all of never ending love. Today you, have chosen to be declare your love for each other in this special ceremony. Please pick up your separate containers of sand and together pour them into the vessel, please repeat together after me, You are my life year, you are my love for eternity. I will blend with you, my heart is like these grains of sands, merging with yours. I am yours, you are mine, we are family. We are together forever like the sand, the wind, and the oceans, We are one.

#### OPTION TWO (MOTHERS AND BRIDE AND GROOM)

Like the Unity Candle the sand ceremony is a custom is used to signify the uniting of two hearts, lives and families this day. Today they join their sand into one to create a mosaic of life experiences now joined

together as one. The sand poured by myself, as your minister on this day, represents God as the foundation of your new life together and the sand is of Galveston where this joining begins. Would the mother's of BRIDE and GROOM please come forward, the sand poured by you represents the teachings of their lives molding them to become the man and woman before you today; BRIDE and GROOM, please come forward, these containers represent you both, in all that you were, all that you are and all that you will ever be. Each holds its own unique beauty, strength, and character. They can stand on their own and be whole, without need of anything else. But once these two are blended they create an entirely new and extraordinarily more intricate entity. Each grain of sand brings to the mixture a lasting beauty that forever enriches the combination. Please pour your sand, just as these grains of sand can never be separated and poured again into the individual containers, so will your marriage be a molding of two individual personalities, bonding together forming one love, one family, your lives are forever joined, for the two have become one.

#### OPTION THREE (BRIDE & GROOM, MOTHERS, BEST MAN & MAID OF HONOR)

Like the Unity Candle the sand ceremony is a custom is used to signify the uniting of two hearts, lives and families this day. Today they join their sand into one to create a mosaic of life experiences now joined together as one. The sand poured by myself, as your minister on this day, represents God as the foundation of your new life together and the sand is of Galveston where this joining begins. Would the mother's of BRIDE and GROOM please come forward, the sand poured by you represents the foundation of their lives molding them to become the man and woman before you today; BEST MAN and MAID OF HONOR please come forward, the sand poured by you represents the separate families and sets of friends that BRIDE and GROOM, before this day. BRIDE and GROOM, please come forward, these containers represents you both, in all that you were, all that you are and all that you will ever be. Each holds its own unique beauty, strength, and character. They can stand on their own and be whole, without need of anything else. But once these two are blended they create an entirely new and extraordinarily more intricate entity. Each grain of sand brings to the mixture a lasting beauty that forever enriches the combination. Please pour your sand into the heart, just as these grains of sand can never be separated and poured again into the individual containers, so will your marriage be a molding of two individual personalities, bonding together forming one love, one family, your lives are forever joined, for the two have become one.

#### OPTION FOUR (BRIDE, GROOM AND CHILDREN)

The sand ceremony is a custom is used to signify the uniting of two hearts, lives and families this day. Today they join their sand into one to create a mosaic of life experiences joining together as one. Just as the waters touch and nourish the many shores of the earth, may your love be a moving sea between the shores of your souls. Just as there will never be a morning without the ocean's flow, there will never be a day without your love for each other. You have just sealed your relationship by the giving and receiving of rings. The sand poured by myself, as your minister on this day, represents God as the foundation of your new life together and the sand is of Galveston where this joining begins. Would CHILD and CHILD please come forward, the sand poured by you represents their separate families and sets of friends, before this day. BRIDE and GROOM, please come forward, these containers represents you both, in all that you were, all that you are and all that you will ever be. Each holds its own unique beauty, strength, and character. They can stand on their own and be whole, without need of anything else. But once these two are blended they create an entirely new and extraordinarily more intricate entity. Each grain of sand brings to the mixture a lasting beauty that forever enriches the combination. Please pour your sand into the heart, just as these

grains of sand can never be separated and poured again into the individual containers, so will your marriage be a molding of two individual personalities, bonding together forming one love, one family.

#### OPTION FIVE (BRIDE.GROOM ONE CHILD)

Like the Unity Candle the sand ceremony is a custom is used to signify the uniting of two hearts, lives and families this day. Today they join their sand into one to create a mosaic of life experiences now joined together as one. Just as the waters touch and nourish the many shores of the earth, may your love be a moving sea between the shores of your souls. Just as there will never be a morning without the ocean's flow, there will never be a day without your love for each other. You have just sealed your relationship by the giving and receiving of rings. The sand poured by your minister on this day, represents God as the foundation of your new life together and the sand is of Galveston where you were joined in marriage. CHILD please step forward, the sand poured by you represents their separate families and sets of friends, before this day. BRIDE and GROOM, please step forward, these containers represents you both, in all that you were, all that you are and all that you will ever be. Each holds its own unique beauty, strength, and character. They can stand on their own and be whole, without need of anything else. But once these two are blended they create an entirely new and extraordinarily more intricate entity. Each grain of sand brings to the mixture a lasting beauty that forever enriches the combination. Please pour your sand into the your center container, just as these grains of sand can never be separated and poured again into the individual containers, so will your marriage be a molding of two individual personalities, bonding together forming one love, one family, your lives are forever joined.

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#### ROSE CEREMONY OPTIONS

##### LONG VERSION

##### Rose Ceremony

"Your gift to each other for your wedding today has been your wedding rings - which shall always be an outward demonstration of your vows of love; and a public showing of your commitment to each other. You now have what remains the most honorable title which may exist between a man and a woman - the title of "husband" and "wife." For your first gift as husband and wife, that gift will be a single rose. In the past, the rose was considered a symbol of love and a single rose always meant only one thing - the words "I love you." So it is appropriate that for your first gift - as husband and wife - that gift would be a single rose.

Please exchange your first gift as husband and wife. In some ways it seems like you have not done anything at all; just a moment ago you were holding one small rose - and now you are holding one small rose. In some ways, a marriage ceremony is like this. In some ways, tomorrow is going to seem no different than yesterday. But in fact today, just now, you both have given and received one of the most valuable and precious gifts of life- one I hope you always remember - the gift of true and abiding love within the devotion of marriage.

GROOM and BRIDE, I would ask that where ever you make your home in the future - whether it be a large and elegant home - or a small and graceful one - that you both pick one very special location for roses; so

that on each anniversary of this truly wonderful occasion you both may take a rose to that spot both as a recommitment to your marriage - and a recommitment that THIS will be a marriage based upon love.

In every marriage there are times where it is difficult to find the right words. It is easiest to hurt who we most love. It is easiest to be most hurt by who we most love. It might be difficult some time to words to say "I am sorry" or "I forgive you"; "I need you" or "I am hurting". If this should happen, if you simply can not find these words, leave a rose at that spot which both of you have selected - for that rose than says what matters most of all and should overpower all other things and all other words. That rose says the words: "I still love you." The other should accept this rose for the words which can not be found, and remember the love and hope that you both share today.

GROOM and BRIDE, if there is anything you remember of this marriage ceremony, it is that it was love that brought you here today, it is only love which can make it a glorious union, and it is by love which your marriage shall endure."

#### SHORTER VERSION

##### Rose Ceremony

"Your gift to each other for your wedding today has been your wedding rings - which shall always be an outward demonstration of your vows of love; and a public showing of your commitment to each other. You now have what remains the most honorable title which may exist between a man and a woman - the title of "husband" and "wife." For your first gift as husband and wife, that gift will be a single rose, which in the past, the rose was considered a symbol of love and a single rose always meant only one thing - the words "I love you".

Please exchange your first gift as husband and wife. Tomorrow is going to seem no different than today. But in fact today, just now, you both have given and received one of the most valuable and precious gifts of life - one I hope you always remember - the gift of true and abiding love within the devotion of marriage.

GROOM and BRIDE, I would ask that where ever you make your home in the future - whether it be a large and elegant home - or a small and graceful one - that you both pick one very special location for roses; so that on each anniversary of this truly wonderful occasion you both may take a rose to that spot both as a recommitment to your marriage - and a recommitment that THIS will be a marriage based upon love.

GROOM and BRIDE, if there is anything you remember of this marriage ceremony, it is that it was love that brought you here today, it is only love which can make it a glorious union, and it is by love which your marriage shall endure."