

Commitment Ceremony Outline

Declaration of Intent

Officiant: 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 union
you should strive to make real
the ideals which give meaning to this ceremony.

With full awareness, know that within this circle
you are not only declaring your intent to be handfasted
before your friends and family,
but you speak that intent
to the Divine Spirit that guides your lives.

The promises made today and the ties that are bound here
greatly strengthen your union.

Do you still seek to enter this ceremony?

Yes, We Seek to Enter.

Officiant: Who brings these two people to this joyful place in their life journey?

Couple thank parents, family & friends for their support, guidance, and love up
to this point in their path and ask for their continued support.

Calling In the Four Directions

Officiant: In times past it was believed that the human soul
shared characteristics with all things divine.
It is this belief which assigned virtues
to the cardinal directions: East, South, West and North.
It is in this tradition that a blessing is offered
in support of this ceremony.

Officiant calls in the four directions.

Officiant: Each of these blessings from the four cardinal directions emphasizes
those things which will help you build a happy and successful union. Yet they are
only tools, tools which you must use together in order to create what you seek in
this union.

Handfasting

I bid you join hands and look into each other's eyes.

Will you cause her **pain**? *I May*

Is that your intent? **No**

Will you share each other's **pain** and seek to ease it? **Yes**

[**First** / red cord is draped across the hands]

And so the binding is made.

Will you share her **laughter**? **Yes**

Will you look for the **brightness** in life and the positive in each other? **Yes**

[**Second** / orange cord is draped across the hands]

And so the binding is made.

Will you **burden** her? *I may*

Is that your intent? **No**

Will you share the **burdens** of each so that your spirits may grow in union? **Yes**

[**Third** / yellow cord is draped across the hands]

And so the binding is made.

Will you share her **dreams**? **Yes**

Will you **dream** together to create new realities and hopes? **Yes**

[**Fourth** / green cord is draped across the hands]

And so the binding is made.

Will you cause her **anger**? *I may*

Is that your intent? **No**

Will you take the heat of **anger** and use it to temper the strength of this union?

We Will

[**Fifth** / blue cord is draped across the hands]

And so the binding is made.

Will you **honor** her? *I will*

Will you seek to never give cause to break that **honor**? **We shall never do so**

[**Sixth** / purple cord is draped across the hands]

And so the binding is made.

[Cords are tied together]

The knots of this binding are not formed by these cords
but instead by your vows.

Either of you may drop the cords, for as always,
you hold in your own hands the making or breaking of this union.

[Cords are removed and placed on altar]

The Vow

Officiant: And now, I require and charge you both,
as you stand in the presence of Divine Love,
before whom the secrets of all hearts are disclosed,
that, having duly considered the commitment you are about to make,
you do now declare before this company
your pledge of faith, each to the other.

Will you, _____, have _____ to be your spiritual helpmate,
your mind's delight, and your heart's treasure,
And to live together in peace and love?
Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her,
in sickness and in health;
and forsaking all other keep only unto her
so long as you both shall live?

I will.

The Exchange of Rings

Officiant: The ring is the outward and visible sign
of an inward and spiritual grace.
Bless the giving of these rings,
that they who wear them may abide in peace and harmony
and receive the blessing of Divine Love on this union.

***In token and pledge
of our constant faith and abiding love,
with this ring I encircle my life with yours.***

Blessing

Officiant: We call upon all that we hold most sacred to

Bless this union.

We call upon the earth, our planet home, with its beautiful depths and soaring heights, its vitality and abundance of life, and together we ask that it

Bless this union.

We call upon the mountains, the green mountains and the white, and the high valleys and meadows filled with wild flowers, the snows that never melt, the summits of intense silence, and we ask that they

Bless this union.

We call upon the waters that rim the earth, horizon to horizon, that flow in our rivers and streams, that fall upon our gardens and fields, that fill our ponds and pools, and we ask that they

Bless this union.

We call upon the land which grows our food, the nurturing soil, the fertile fields, the abundant gardens and orchards, and we ask that they

Bless this union.

We call upon the forests, the great trees reaching to the sky with earth in their roots and heaven in their branches, the fir and the pine, the cedar and the maple, and we ask them to

Bless this union.

We call upon the moon and the stars and the sun, who govern the rhythms and seasons of our lives and remind us that we are part of a great and wondrous universe, and we ask them to

Bless this union.

We call upon all those who have lived on this earth, our ancestors and friends, who dreamed the best for future generations, and upon whose lives our lives are built, and with thanksgiving, we call upon them to

Bless this union.

We call upon the family and friends and all those who love and cherish and sustain this couple, and ask that together we

Bless this union.

And lastly, we call upon the power and presence of the Creator, on that which asks us to become greater than ourselves so that the one may become two and the two may become one, and all together we

Bless this union.

Apache Wedding Prayer

Officiant: 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 you are two bodies,
But there is only one life before you.

Go now to your dwelling place
To enter into the days of your togetherness
And may your days be good and long upon the earth.

Officiant announces the couple as united in love and says

"You may kiss your bride."