

# Registry Ceremony Marriage Vows



Te Tari Taiwhenua  
Internal Affairs

To apply for a registry marriage ceremony go to <https://marriages.services.govt.nz>

- Registry ceremonies are standardised to meet the legislative requirements of getting married, which includes the marriage vows. The vows are simple and standardised.
- There is a set fee for a registry ceremony. Registry celebrants cannot charge you additional costs over the set fee e.g. they cannot charge you extra for travelling outside of their area.
- The ceremony must be held on a weekday, excluding public holidays. The ceremony cannot occur on a weekend.
- Your celebrant may set a maximum number of guests that may attend, which is usually less than 20 guests.
- The location for your marriage in New Zealand must be close to the registry celebrant of your choice. If you are choosing your own venue it must be close to where your registry celebrant is based.
- The ceremony usually takes less than 30 minutes in total from the time the couple arrive, saying the vows, and for signing the papers.
- Other persons may not generally be involved in the ceremony.

## ***Personalised marriage ceremony***

*If a registry ceremony does not meet your requirements, you may prefer a personalised marriage ceremony. You can usually have a personalised ceremony in a location of your choice at a physical location in New Zealand, on any day of the week, including weekends and public holidays and at any time you wish. An independent celebrant will work with you to deliver the ceremony you want, personalising it to your needs, culture and style. In a personalised ceremony you can choose to have readings, write your own vows and include a range of elements and activities meaningful to you as a couple. Celebrant fees vary across the country and it's important to discuss this prior to engaging them.*

## **Te reo Māori or English**

There are Māori and English versions of the registry vows. If the couple would like to use the Māori version, they will need to discuss that with the celebrant when booking the ceremony. If the celebrant agrees, the couple will need to provide an interpreter if any of the celebrant, couple and witnesses do not understand the language. Before the ceremony starts, the interpreter should sign the “Declaration to translate a marriage or civil union ceremony”, which can be downloaded from [www.govt.nz/bdm](http://www.govt.nz/bdm). The form also needs to be signed by the celebrant.

The vows that will most commonly be used is Option 1.

Option 1	Marriage Vows	Ngā Oati Mārena
1	<b>Celebrant Welcome</b> , including any health and safety comments.	<b>Te mihi a te Kaiwhakanui</b> , tae atu ki ngā kōrero hauora me te haumarū.
2	A wedding is a wonderful occasion and I welcome you all here today to celebrate the marriage between <i>[insert name]</i> and <i>[insert name]</i> .	He wā whakahirahira te mārena, nō reira nau mai koutou katoa ki te whakanui i te mārena i waenga i a <i>[insert name]</i> rāua ko <i>[insert name]</i> .
3	Thank you for sharing this important day with them <i>[Insert witnesses names]</i> .	Tēnei te mihi atu ki a koutou mō te tautoko i tēnei rā nui whakaharahara me rāua <i>[Insert witnesses names]</i> .
4	You have an important role today because <i>[insert name]</i> and <i>[insert name]</i> have asked you to sign the legal paperwork as witness to their marriage.	He mahi nui tāu i te rangi nui, nā te mea kua inoi a <i>[insert name]</i> rāua ko <i>[insert name]</i> kia waitohutia e koe ngā pepa ā-ture, hei kaitihiro ki tō rāua mārena.
5	<i>[insert name]</i> and <i>[insert name]</i> , in marrying, you are making a sincere commitment to go forward in your lives as marriage partners ... promising love, support and encouragement to each other throughout your lives together.	Nā te mārena nei, <i>[insert name]</i> kōrua ko <i>[insert name]</i> , e tohu ana i tō kōrua pūmau ki te noho tahi hei hoa mārena... e whakaari ana i tō kōrua aroha, tautoko, me te whakamanawatanga i te roanga atu o ō kōrua rā.
6	However, no ceremony can create a marriage; only the two of you can do that —through love and patience; through dedication and perseverance; through talking and listening, helping and supporting and believing in each other.	Engari, e kore te mārena e puāwai i te whakaritenga anake; ka taea anake e kōrua tērā — mā te aroha me te manawanui; mā te pūmau me te manawaroa; mā te kōrero me te whakarongo, mā te āwhina, te tautoko me te whakapono tētahi ki tētahi.
7	What this ceremony can do is to witness and affirm the choice you have both made to stand together as friends and partners for life.	Mā tēnei whakahaere e whakaatu me te whakaū i tō kōrua whiringa kia tū ngātahi hei hoa pūmau, hoa rangatira hoki, mō ake tonu.
8	<b>Vows</b>	<b>Ngā oati</b>
9	We come now to the words that will confirm that choice ... the marriage vows.	I tēnei wā ka puta ngā kupu e whakaū ana i tērā whiringa...ngā oati o te mārena.
10	In front of everyone here, the vows that you are about to declare are your promises and commitment to each other.	I mua i te marea kua mine mai, ko ngā kupu e oati nei koe, ko tō kī taurangi, me tō pūmautanga ki a kōrua anō.
11	The law requires that each of you declare before me and at least two other witnesses that you are freely entering into this marriage and that you take the other person to be your legal wife or husband.	I raro i te ture me whakapuaki e kōrua i mua i ahau me ētahi atu tokorua i te iti rawa, e whakauru herekore ana kōrua ki tēnei mārena, ā, ka whakaae ana koe ki a ia hei wahine mārena, tāne mārena whaimana rānei
12	<b>I will now ask each of you to make that statement ...</b>	<b>Ka inoi au ki a kōrua ināianei ki te whakaputa i taua tauākī...</b>
13	<i>[insert name]</i> please repeat after me:	<i>[insert name]</i> tēnā whakahua i muri i ahau:
14	I <i>[insert full name]</i> declare that I am freely entering into this marriage between myself and <i>[insert full name]</i> .	E whakapuaki ana au <i>[insert full name]</i> , e whakauru herekore ana au ki tēnei mārena, i waenganui i a māua ko <i>[insert full name]</i> .
15	I invite everyone to witness that I, <i>[insert name]</i> take you, <i>[insert name]</i> to be my legal husband/wife/partner.	E pōhiri ana au i te marea kia āta kite mai, ka tango ahau a <i>[insert name]</i> , i a koe, a <i>[insert name]</i> , hei wahine/tāne/hoa mārena māku.

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Option 1		Marriage Vows	Ngā Oati Mārena
16	Celebrant and Party 2	<i>[insert name]</i> please repeat after me:	<i>[insert name]</i> tēna whakahua i muri i ahau:
17		I <i>[insert full name]</i> declare that I am freely entering into this marriage between myself and <i>[insert full name]</i> .	E whakapuaki ana au <i>[insert full name]</i> , e whakauru herekore ana au ki tēnei mārena, i waenganui i a māua ko <i>[insert full name]</i> .
18		I invite everyone to witness that I, <i>[insert name]</i> take you, <i>[insert name]</i> to be my legal wife/husband/partner.	E pōhiri ana au i te marea kia āta kite mai, ka tango ahau a <i>[insert name]</i> , i a koe, a <i>[insert name]</i> , hei wahine/tāne/hoa mārena whaimana māku.
19	Celebrant	<b>Exchange of rings (if the couple is exchanging rings)</b>	<b>Te Whakawhiti i Ngā Rīngi (mēnā kei te whakawhiri rīngi te tokorua)</b>
20		A wedding ring is a symbol of your love and of the vows you have made. As you wear these rings, may they be constant reminders of your promises to each other and your commitment to your marriage.	He tohu te rīngi o tō kōrua aroha me ngā oati kua puta i a koe. I a koe e mau ana i ēnei rīngi, he whakamahara ukiuki i ā kōrua oati ki a kōrua, me tō pūmautanga hoki ki tō kōrua mārena.
21		I now invite you to exchange rings and ask:	Tēnā whakawhitia ngā rīngi, me te pātai ake:
22		<i>[insert name]</i> , to please place the ring for <i>[insert name]</i> on his/her finger.	<i>[insert name]</i> , tēnā whakamaua te rīngi mā <i>[insert name]</i> ki tōna mānawa.
23		<i>[insert name]</i> to please place the ring for <i>[insert name]</i> on her/his finger.	<i>[insert name]</i> tēnā whakamaua te rīngi mā <i>[insert name]</i> ki tōna mānawa.
24		<b>Pronouncement</b>	<b>Whakapuakanga</b>
25		Today you have made a true commitment to each other ... we wish you a fulfilling life together, rich in caring and in happiness.	Kua oti i a kōrua te pūmautanga pono , tētahi ki tētahi i tēnei rā...ko te tūmanako ka rangatira tā kōrua noho tahi, i runga i te manaaki me te hari nui.
26		<b>And now...</b>	<b>Nō reira...</b>
27		<i>[insert name]</i> and <i>[insert name]</i> , I now pronounce you to be legally married as husband and wife (partners/ wife and wife/ husband and husband).	<i>[insert name]</i> kōrua ko <i>[insert name]</i> tēnei te whakahua i a kōrua kua whaimana tā kōrua mārena hei tāne mārena me te wahine mārena (hoa mārena, wahine mārena me te wahine mārena, tāne mārena me te tāne mārena).
28		Congratulations <i>[insert name and name]</i> .	E mihi ana, <i>[insert name kōrua ko name]</i> .
29		<i>[insert name]</i> and <i>[insert name]</i> will now sign the paperwork and I ask <i>[insert witnesses names]</i> to come forward please.	<i>Ināiane</i> ka waitohutia e <i>[insert name]</i> rāua ko <i>[insert name]</i> te pepa, ā, ka inoi au ki a <i>[insert witnesses names]</i> kia haere mai.

	Option 2	Marriage Vows	Ngā Oati Mārena
1	Celebrant	Good morning/afternoon, my name is <.....> and it is my pleasure to welcome you all here today to celebrate this marriage between <Party 1 full name> and <Party 2 full name>.	Tēnā koutou, ko <.....> tōku ingoa, ā, tēnei te mihi atu ki a koutou katoa kua tae mai nei ki te whakanui i tēnei mārena i waenga i a <Party 1 full name> rāua ko <Party 2 full name>.
2		The law requires that each of you declare before me and at least two other witnesses that you are freely entering into this marriage and that you take the other person to be your lawfully wedded wife or husband/partner/wife/husband.	I raro i te ture me whakapuaki e kōrua i mua i ahau me ētahi atu tokorua i te iti rawa e whakauru herekore ana kōrua ki tēnei mārena, ā, ka whakaae koe ki a ia hei wahine mārena whaimana/tāne mārena whaimana/hoa mārena whaimana māu i raro i te ture.
3		I will now ask each of you to make that statement.	Ka tonoa kōrua ināianei ki te whakaputa i taua tauākī.
4		<Party 1 first name>, please repeat after me:	<Party 1 first name>, tēnā whakahua i muri i ahau:
5	Celebrant and Party 1	"I vow that I do not know of any legal objections to this marriage between myself <Party 1 full name> and <Party 2 full name>.	"E oati ana ahau kāore ahau i te mōhio ki tētahi whakahēnga ā-ture ki tēnei mārena i waenga i ahau, a <Party 1 full name>, me <Party 2 full name>.
6		I invite these persons to witness that I <Party 1 first name> take you <Party 2 first name> to be my lawfully wedded wife/husband/partner."	E tono ana ahau i ēnei tāngata kia āta kite rātau ka tangohia koe, a <Party 2 first name>, e ahau, a <Party 1 first name>, hei wahine/tāne/hoa mārena whaimana māku.
7		<Party 2 first name>, please repeat after me:	<Party 2 first name>, tēnā whakahua i muri i ahau:
8	Celebrant and Party 2	"I vow that I do not know of any legal objections to this marriage between myself <Party 2 full name> and <Party 1 full name>.	"E oati ana ahau kāore ahau i te mōhio ki tētahi whakahēnga ā-ture ki tēnei mārena i waenga i ahau, a <Party 2 full name>, me <Party 2 full name>
9		I invite these persons to witness that I <Party 2 first name> take you <Party 1 first name> to be my lawfully wedded wife/husband/partner."	E tono ana ahau i ēnei tāngata kia āta kite rātau ka tangohia koe, a <Party 1 first name>, e ahau, a <Party 2 first name>, hei wahine/tāne/hoa mārena māku.
10	Celebrant	<b>THE RINGS</b>	<b>NGĀ RĪNGI</b>
11		I'll now invite you to exchange rings:	Tēnā whakawhitia ngā rīngi:
12		<Party 1 first name>, please place the ring for <Party 2 first name> on his/her finger.	<Party 1 first name>, tēnā whakamaua te rīngi mā <Party 2 first name> ki tōna mānawa.
13		<Party 2 first name>, please place the ring for <Party 1 first name> on his/her finger.	<Party 2 first name>, tēnā whakamaua te rīngi mā <Party 1 first name> ki tōna mānawa.
14		These rings serve as a symbol of your love and the vows that you have made to each other; giving all that you are and all you hope to be.	E tohu ana ēnei rīngi i tō kōrua aroha me ngā oati kua whakapuakina e kōrua ki a kōrua anō; e hono ana kōrua hei tinana kotahi me ngā tūmanako katoa mō kōrua.
15		<Party 1 first name> and <Party 2 first name>, I now pronounce you to be lawfully married as Husband and Wife/Partners/Wives/Husbands.	<Party 1 first name>, kōrua ko <Party 2 first name>, tēnei te whakahua i a kōrua kua hono kōrua hei Tāne me te Wahine mārena whaimana/Hoa mārena whaimana/Wāhine mārena whaimana/Tāne mārena whaimana.
16		Congratulations.	Tēnā rawa atu kōrua.

	Option 3	Marriage Vows	Ngā Oati Mārena
1	Celebrant	<b>Welcome ...</b>	<b>Nau mai, Haere mai...</b>
2		A wedding is a wonderful occasion and I welcome you here today to celebrate, recognise and witness the marriage between << Party 1 Full name>> and <<Party 2 Full name>> They have asked you to be with them today because they value your friendship and love, and thank you for sharing this important day with them.	He wā whakahirahira te mārena, nō reira nau mai haere ki te whakanui, ki te whakamana me te mātakitaki i te mārena i waenga i a << Party 1 Full name>> rāua ko <<Party 2 Full name>>. Nā rāua te pōhiri ki a koutou kia noho tahi me rāua i te mea he nui rawa ki a rātau tō koutou piritata, aroha hoki, me te mihi atu i tae mai koutou ki te tautoko i tēnei rā tino whakaharahara me rāua.
3		In marrying <<Party 1 first name>> and <<Party 2 first name>> are making a sincere commitment to go forward in their lives as marriage partners ... promising love, support and encouragement throughout their lives together.	He tino paiherenga tēnei mārena i waenga i a <<Party 1 first name>> rāua ko <<Party 2 first name>> kia noho tahi rāua hei hoa mārena i roto i ō rāua ao... e kī taurangi ana i tō rāua aroha, tautoko, whakamanawa i te roanga atu o ō rātau rā.
4		No ceremony can create a marriage; only the couple can do that—through love and patience; through dedication and perseverance; through talking and listening, helping and supporting and believing in each other. What this ceremony can do is to witness and affirm the choice they make to stand together as life mates and partners.	E kore te mārena e puāwai i te whakaritenga anake; mā ngā tokorua anake tērā—mā te aroha me te manawanui; mā te pūmau me te manawaroa; mā te kōrero me te whakarongo, mā te āwhina, te tautoko me te whakaponu tētahi ki tētahi. Mā tēnei whakahaere e whakaatu me te whakaū i tō rāua hiahia kia tū ngātahi rāua hei hoa pūmau, hoa rangatira hoki.
5		<b>Vows</b>	<b>Ngā oati</b>
6		We come now to the words that will confirm that choice ... the marriage vows. The vows that will declare to each other, and to us who witness, their intentions and commitment to their marriage.	I tēnei wā ka puta ngā kupu e whakaū ana i tērā hiahia... ngā oati o te mārena. Ka whakapuaki ki a rāua anō, me tātau e mātakitaki atu nei, ngā oati o tō rāua koronga me tō rāua paiherenga ki tō rāua mārena.
7		The law requires that each of you declare before me and at least two other witnesses that you are freely entering into this marriage and that you take the other person to be your lawfully wedded wife / husband / partner.	I raro i te ture me whakapuaki e kōrua i mua i ahau me ētahi atu tokorua i te iti rawa e whakauru herekore ana kōrua ki tēnei mārena, ā, ka whakaae koe ki a ia hei wahine mārena / tāne mārena / hoa rangatira whaimana māu i raro i te ture. I will now ask each of you to make that statement ... Ka tonoa kōrua ināianei ki te whakaputa i taua tauākī ...
8		<<Party 1 first name>> please repeat after me:	<<Party 1 first name>>, tēnā whakahua i muri i ahau:
9	Celebrant and Party 1	I vow that I do not know of any legal objection to this marriage between myself <<Party 1 full name>> and <<Party 2 full name>>	E oati ana ahau kāore ahau i te mōhio ki tētahi whakahēnga ā-ture ki tēnei mārena i waenga i ahau, a <<Party 1 first name>>, me <<Party 2 first name>>
10		I invite these persons to witness that I, <<Party 1 first name>>, take you, <<Party 2 first name>>, to be my lawfully wedded wife / husband / partner	E tono ana ahau i ēnei tāngata kia āta kite rātau ka tangohia koe, <<Party 1 first name>>, e ahau, a <<Party 2 first name>>, hei wahine/tāne/hoa mārena māku

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	<b>Option 3</b>	<b>Marriage Vows</b>	<b>Ngā Oati Mārena</b>
11		<<Party 2 first name>> please repeat after me:	<<Party 2 first name>>, tēnā whakahua i muri i ahau:
12	Celebrant and Party 2	I vow that I do not know of any legal objection to this marriage between myself <<Party 2 full name>> and <<Party 1 full name>>	E oati ana ahau kāore ahau i te mōhio ki tētahi whakahēnga ā-ture ki tēnei mārena i waenga i ahau, a <<Party 2 first name>>, me <<Party 1 first name>>
13		I invite these persons to witness that I, <<Party 2 first name>>, take you, <<Party 1 first name>>, to be my lawfully wedded wife / husband / partner	E tono ana ahau i ēnei tāngata kia āta kite rātau ka tangohia koe, a<<Party 2 first name>>, e ahau, <<Party 1 first name>>, hei wahine/tāne/hoa mārena māku
14	Celebrant	<b>Exchange of Rings</b>	<b>Te Whakawhiti i Ngā Rīngi</b>
15		Wedding rings are symbols of your love and the vows you have made. As you wear these rings, may they be constant reminders of your promises and your commitment to your relationship.	E tohu ana ngā rīngi i tō kōrua aroha me ngā oati kua puta i a koe. I a koe e mau ana i ēnei rīngi, he whakamahara ukiuki i ā kōrua oati, paiherenga hoki ki tō kōrua hononga.
16		I now invite you to exchange rings:	Tēnā whakawhitia ngā rīngi:
17		<<Party 1 first name>> please place the ring for <<Party 2 first name>> on his/her finger.	<<Party 1 first name>>, tēnā whakamaua te rīngi mā <<Party 2 first name>> ki tōna mānawa.
18		<<Party 2 first name>> please place the ring for <<Party 1 first name>> on his/her finger.	<<Party 2 first name>>, tēnā whakamaua te rīngi mā <<Party 1 first name>> ki tōna mānawa.
19		<b>Pronouncement</b>	<b>Whakapuakanga</b>
20		Congratulations ... today you have made a true commitment to each other ... we wish you both a fulfilling life together, rich in caring and in happiness.	Tēnā rawa atu kōrua... kua oti i a kōrua te paihere i a kōrua tētahi ki tētahi i tēnei rā ... ko te tūmanako ka rangatira tā kōrua noho tahi, i runga i te manaaki me te hari nui.
21		And now ...	Nō reira ...
23		<<Party 1 first name>> and <<Party 2 first name>>, I now pronounce you to be lawfully married as husband and wife / partners.	<<Party 1 first name>> kōrua ko <<Party 2 first name>>, tēnei te whakahua i a kōrua kua whaimana tā kōrua mārena hei tāne me te wahine / hoa rangatira.
24		Congratulations.	Ngā mihi ki a kōrua.