

Wedding Bells Are Ringing

Creative Custom Ceremonies For All Occasions



'Involving Children'

When a marriage results in the creation of a new family because one or both of the spouses have children, some couples like to include or somehow acknowledge the children in the ceremony. Most typically, young children are involved as Flower Girls and Ring Bearers, and older children as Junior Attendants. Sometimes a child will be asked to read or sing a song. There are also a number of creative ways to acknowledge children who will be a part of your new family unit. The Opening Prayer, Gathering Words, and Final Blessing can include statements that acknowledge the creation of a family as well as a marriage, and thus specifically name the children.

To a large extent, the age of the children will dictate your options. For example, with a young child, you might want to have both the Bride and the Groom share a vow of love and protection with the child and to give them a gift such as a necklace or ring as a symbol of your promise and your union as a family. Children may also want to say a vow to their new family as well.

Older children are more likely to be sensitive about participating in the ceremony if their other parent is unhappy about it, especially if still single. These concerns should be honored by all means. It is important to remember that there are many confusing emotions to be processed by children when a parent is getting remarried or married for the first time. Sometimes, more mature children like to write something to read during the wedding ceremony, and I am more than happy to design your ceremony with a place for them to do so. Again, they should be invited to participate, but never forced to do so.

4515 286th Street * Toledo, OH * 43611

Phone: 419.469.0571

<http://www.weddingbellsareringing.com>

Wedding Bells Are Ringing

Creative Custom Ceremonies For All Occasions



Involving Children: Opening Prayer

Beloved God, we are gathered here, uniting our hearts as one in support and celebration of <Bride Full> and <Groom Full> as they enter into the sacred and joyous covenant of marriage.

We ask you to bless the family created by this union as <Bride/Groom>'s daughter/son, <Child 1>, and <Bride/Groom>'s daughter/son, <Child 2>, join with them in the creation of a new family.

We ask that you guide and bless each of them in loving and honoring one another and in building and strengthening a family unit that will be a safe and nurturing haven for them all. Help them to find the balance and harmony of their individuality and their shared life.

We ask that your light and grace be extended to each of them, that they may know you and welcome you in their lives each and every day.

Involving Children: Gift to Younger Child

(In this example, the Bride had a five-year-old daughter from a previous marriage.)

Rev. Hope:

This ceremony marks not only the union of <Groom> and <Bride> as husband and wife, it also celebrates the combining of <Groom> and <Bride> with her daughter, <Child 1>, to form a new family.

4515 286th Street * Toledo, OH * 43611

Phone: 419.469.0571

<http://www.weddingbellsareringing.com>

Wedding Bells Are Ringing

Creative Custom Ceremonies For All Occasions



(The daughter is invited to join her mother.)

Bride to Daughter:

Because <Groom> and I are getting married today, that means we three are becoming more of a family today too. One reason I decided to marry <Groom> is because he cares so deeply for you. So, today <Groom> is joining our family because we love him and we are so happy together.

Groom to Bride's Daughter:

<Child 1>, I am so happy that we are a family. I want to protect you, to take care of you, to love you, and to always be your friend. I give you this necklace as a symbol of my promise to always be there for you.

(He puts the necklace on her and she sits down.)

Involving Children: Gifts to Multiple Children 1

(In this version, the Bride and Groom brought five children under age seven together into their newly formed family.)

Rev. Hope:

Today marks not only the marriage of <Bride> and <Groom>, but the formalizing of the family bond they are creating with their children <Child 1>, <Child 2>, <Child 3>, <Child 4>, and <Child 5>.

Bride and Groom to Children:

(reading alternating paragraphs)

4515 286th Street * Toledo, OH * 43611

Phone: 419.469.0571

<http://www.weddingbellsareringing.com>

Wedding Bells Are Ringing

Creative Custom Ceremonies For All Occasions



<Child 1>, <Child 2>, <Child 3>, <Child 4>, and <Child 5>, we are now one family, a mom and dad, brothers and sisters. Each of you has so much beauty inside. You can do anything you choose to do with your life.

We promise to be patient and to support each of you, to give you strength and room to grow, to do less correcting and more connecting, to stop playing serious and to seriously play, to do less tugging and do more hugging.

Life is full of surprises, and we want you to know that no matter what happens, no matter what you do or who you become, we will always love you.

<Child 1>, <Child 2>, <Child 3>, <Child 4>, and <Child 5>, today we give you these rings to remind you of our love and to serve as a symbol of the unity of our new family.

Involving Children: Gifts to Multiple Children 2

(Here is a version in which the Bride and Groom each bring a son to the new family created by their marriage.)

Rev. Hope:

This ceremony marks not only the union of <Bride> and <Groom> as husband and wife, but like ripples on the water, their union creates new family circles as well. So we are here to celebrate the coming together of <Bride> and <Groom> with their sons <Bride's Son> and <Groom's Son> as a new family created by this marriage.

4515 286th Street * Toledo, OH * 43611

Phone: 419.469.0571

<http://www.weddingbellsareringing.com>

Wedding Bells Are Ringing

Creative Custom Ceremonies For All Occasions



Bride to Groom's Son:

<Groom's Son>, I feel blessed that our families are joining together today and that <Bride's Son> and I can continue our special friendship with you. Even though we will spend time together as a family, your time alone with your father is just as important. I promise you that will continue. I give you this chain as a symbol of my promise to be your friend and to always be there for you.

Bride to Her Son:

Because <Groom> and I are getting married today, that means we are becoming more of a family today too. One reason I decided to marry <Groom> is because he cares so deeply for you. So, today <Groom> is joining our family because we love him and we are so happy together.

Groom to Bride's Son:

<Bride's Son>, I am so happy that we are a family. I want to protect you, to take care of you, to love you, and to always be your friend. I give you this ring as a symbol of my promise to always be there for you.

Groom to His Son:

<Groom's Son>, you and I will always be special buddies, and I want you to know that it means a lot to me that you have grown to love <Bride> and <Bride's Son> too. While we will all be a new family together, you and I will always have our special friendship. I love you forever, buddy.



4515 286th Street * Toledo, OH * 43611

Phone: 419.469.0571

<http://www.weddingbellsareringing.com>

Wedding Bells Are Ringing

Creative Custom Ceremonies For All Occasions



Involving Children: Children's Vows

(In this example, the children are called forward to say vows of love and loyalty to their new family after the Bride and Groom exchange their Wedding Vows.)

Rev. Hope:

Today, <Bride> and <Groom> are joined in their vows by <Child 1> and <Child 2>, for they too wish to express the love and commitment they have given and received, and will continue to feel as a part of this family.

For you, <Child 1> and <Child 2>, something very special is happening today. In this ceremony, you are sharing in the celebration of the happiness that is present in your family, and you are affirming your role in that most fundamental of all human relationships.

May the joy and excitement of today and the warmth and loving of your home also serve as a model for you of what you will seek and find when it is your time to enter into marriage and create your own family.

Rev. Hope then asks each child to repeat the following vow:

I, <Child 1>, do hereby promise to love, honor, and cherish my family, to always be honest and true about who I am, and to honor and respect the truth of each member of this family.

(The children return to their seats and then, after the Bride and Groom exchange rings, the children are again invited up to receive rings as well.)

4515 286th Street * Toledo, OH * 43611

Phone: 419.469.0571

<http://www.weddingbellsareringing.com>

Wedding Bells Are Ringing

Creative Custom Ceremonies For All Occasions



Rev. Hope:

May I have the children's rings please?

Bride and Groom:

<Child 1> and <Child 2>, we give you these rings today as tokens of our love for you, and as a symbol of the unity of our family.

Involving Children: Ribbon Ceremony

The ribbon ceremony is a nice way to involve your children into the service. What you do is stand side by side, either facing each other or facing me. Hold hands. During this part, your children approach on cue and lightly tie a ribbon around your wrists, tying you together and blessing your union.

Rev. Hope:

As we celebrate the joining together of <Bride> and <Groom> in marriage, let us not forget that this union is more than just that of two people in love. It is also the joining and uniting of two families into one.

In recognition of this, <Bride> and <Groom> would like to ask for the blessings of their children: <Names>. We ask that each child come forward at this time to show <his/her/their> support of this marriage by blessing the union with a ribbon of love.

(Each child approaches the couple and loosely binds their wrists together with ribbon.)

4515 286th Street * Toledo, OH * 43611

Phone: 419.469.0571

<http://www.weddingbellsareringing.com>

Wedding Bells Are Ringing

Creative Custom Ceremonies For All Occasions



Involving Children: Candle Ceremony

<Bride>, <Groom>, <Child 1>, and <Child 2>, you have all pledged to love and nurture each other. Love is something magical. It is a gift from God that lights us up inside. And when a man and a woman join their hearts in marriage, their lights flow together and a single brighter light goes forth from their united being.

When a family is formed as an extension of this union, the light is intensified by the light that flows from the children as well. The happiness you feel in being a family together is a reflection of this. This light that you have, this happiness, comes from God. So when we love one another, we are experiencing God's presence in our lives.

<Bride>, <Groom>, <Child 1>, and <Child 2>, you are divine and eternal beings, and as you come to know this, you will never cease to wonder and glory in your coming together as a family. By being a loving family, you will awaken your love for God and your knowledge of the fact that within each human being burns the spark of the divine.

When people love one another with devotion and freedom, they kindle the awareness of that spark in each other as nothing else quite can do. <Bride>, <Groom>, <Child 1>, and <Child 2>, in joining together today, you kindle one another's divine light and promise always to do your best to see that light in each other and to nurture and tend that divine flame in one another as best you can each day, especially at the times it may be hardest to do, and the times when one of you may doubt or forget the existence of that light within yourself.

4515 286th Street * Toledo, OH * 43611

Phone: 419.469.0571

<http://www.weddingbellsareringing.com>