



Northumberland County Council

## **Personal touches – examples of ceremony wording**

### **The rose ceremony**

Registrar: 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 respect and a public showing of your commitment to each other. You now have what remains the most honourable 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. It meant 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.

### **A unity candle ceremony**

Registrar: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, these two candles symbolise your separate lives, your separate families and your separate sets of friends. I ask that you each take one candle and that together you light the centre candle. The individual candles represent your individual lives before today and the

centre candle now shows your two lives merging to one and also represents the joining together of your two families and friends.

### **The sand ceremony**

Registrar: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, today you are making a lasting commitment to share the rest of your lives with each other, joining your two families into one.

(Here you pour the sands into your special container. Layers could be created or you can mix the grains, however you wish). As the individual grains of sand can no longer be separated, may your bond also be inseparable.

Registrar: But you are also making a bond with your children. As they also contribute their unique personalities and strengths to this new family, they will also individually add a layer of sand to this unity vase.

(Pause as the children pour their sand individually, forming separate layers over their parents' blended sand or everyone could pour together, representing their commitment to each other.)