

11) Can we write our own vows?

I welcome the inclusion of your personal vows into the ceremony, or if you choose, we can use the vows as written in one of the marriage ceremonies I often use - they are beautifully simple and thoughtful. Or we can work together on any combination to come up with something that is original, creative and specifically meaningful to you and your particular situation. It is your ceremony and I will work with you to ensure it reflects the two of you. This might also include a bit of humour and lightness. Remember that although this is an important and serious step, it is also one of great joy!

12) Do you meet with us before the ceremony?

An introductory meeting is an enjoyable component of my profession. I always look forward to meeting with couples prior to the wedding so that we are not complete strangers at the ceremony. This meeting will give us a chance to become comfortable with each other, to discuss details of the ceremony, and to raise any questions that may need answering. And I love to spend wedding-talk time in the many wonderful coffee shops at our disposal here in Edmonton. In fact if you know of one I've not been to, I'll buy your coffee!

13) Are there any special additions to the ceremony that you would perform for us?

We are only limited here by the bounds of our creativity. I have previously included Wine Box/ Love Letter Ceremonies, Unity Candle Ceremonies, Rose Ceremonies, Rose Ceremonies for Parents, Gifts for Children, Acknowledgement of Family Members (who are not present and/or have passed away), Warming of the Rings, Broom Jumping . . . you see? We could go on.

14) Will you lead a rehearsal?

Yes, I encourage you to include a rehearsal in your planning, particularly if you are having a classic ceremony with a wedding party. You will be more relaxed on your wedding day as will your wedding party, and even though you will not need to remember anything during the ceremony (I will lead you through it all), you will be much more relaxed having filled in some of the unknowns as we move through the rehearsal together. Also, makes for a better night-before-the-wedding sleep.

15) What can I expect on the day of the ceremony?

On the day of the wedding, I will arrive about 30 minutes early so I can check-in with you, provide some reassurance (if needed), and answer any last-minute questions.

16) What do we have to do following the ceremony?

Following the ceremony, it is my responsibility to complete the appropriate documentation and register your marriage with the government. Within about 10-14 days your marriage will be entered into the government data-base, and you may subsequently go to an Alberta Registry to apply for your Marriage Certificate (the official, legal proof of your marriage). Nothing will be mailed to you automatically. Please go to (link <http://servicealberta.com/1158.cfm>) for information regarding Marriage Certificates.

17) We are going to Mexico in February to have a celebration wedding on the beach but would like to legalize the marriage here in Alberta before we go. Will you assist us with this process?

Most certainly. I am always in favour of a romantic wedding on the beach (even if I'm not invited!), and I am happy to assist you with this first step in your marriage process.