

Renewal & Reaffirmation of Vows

A marriage reaffirmation ceremony is a time of thanksgiving and assessment of a couple's years together. It is a strengthening of their commitment to each other. The ceremony can be personalized to reflect the trials, tribulations and joys of the marriage. Children and grandchildren can be mentioned and included. Hopes for the future can also be expressed. The event can be informal, warm and personal. It is a celebration of years spent together and a renewal of promises for the future.

Design Your Own Ceremony

You can design your own marriage reaffirmation ceremony. The following sample ceremonies, vows, and expressions of intention are suggestions. Readings, additional vows, prayers and other ceremony ideas can be obtained from the other sections in this Ceremony Library. Pick and choose from the samples, delete words or paragraphs, select parts from several different ceremonies, choose your favorite vows, select readings and prayers which you would like, choose selections from other sources, and add your own words and ideas.

There are no required elements, pick and choose what you would like. Music and readings are appropriate at any point in the ceremony. Although the correct terms are husband and wife, for name substitution Grm and Bde are used in these Reaffirmation samples.

Reaffirmation Ceremony No. 1

Convocation

We are gathered here today to celebrate with Grm and Bde as they reaffirm their vows in marriage. This is a beautiful and joyous occasion because it acknowledges their commitment in deep friendship and love. This is not a new union, but one that has been tested, matured, and evolved over time.

With this knowledge and understanding of each other, you have decided to reaffirm your commitment to spend your lives together. This partnership has allowed you to grow and become aware of yourselves as unique individuals, united in the oneness of love. And it is here today that we honor your union.

The beauty of your love is that you can each respect the individuality of the other, allowing the freedom that is necessary if we are truly to be ourselves.

One of the beautiful things about marriage is that while you unite to become one, you do not thereby become less yourselves but more. For this is a union of true freedom, not possessiveness. You each have valuable qualities, which you bring to this marriage, and as you treasure your own uniqueness, and that of your partner, your relationship is elevated to that of a true, spiritual union.

How can you become one without losing your individuality? How can you maintain your individuality without distracting from your unity? The answer is to be found in unconditional love, which you have. In love you surrender yourselves, each giving yourself to the other. But you do not lose yourself in the other; you find yourself. You are one, yet you are distinct. That is the paradox, the mystery of love.

The loving relationship you continue to nurture will flow out of that love. It will be for you both, and for everyone whose lives you touch, a thing of beauty and joy forever.

We now join in blessing Grm and Bde in the continuing of their lives together. We recognize that the presence of God within them enables them to fulfill the promise of true partnership in life. We know and affirm that they live in joy and in love.

Reaffirmation Vows

Grm and Bde, please join hands and renew your vows.

Husband and wife can each write their personal Vows and read it at this time. The sample Vows set out in this section can be used for ideas and wording.

Exchange of Rings

Wedding rings can be re-exchanged or blessed. See the Ring Exchange section.

Exchange of Gifts

Grm and Bde have chosen to honor and remember this day by exchanging a Mother's and Father's ring. Each ring has (number) stones to signify the (number) children of this marriage. Each stone commemorates the birth month of a child. List names, dates of birth, and gemstone for each child.

Benediction

May the blessings of life, the joy of love, the peace of truth, the wisdom and strength of Spirit, be your constant companions, now and always. Please seal your vows with a kiss.

Reaffirmation Ceremony No. 2

Convocation

We are here to witness and celebrate the renewal of the marriage vows of Grm and Bde.

(Number) years ago on (date) Grm and Bde committed their lives together as husband and wife. This commitment included all sorrows and joys, all hardships and triumphs, and all the experiences of life. Grm and Bde now renew their commitment to one another and reconfirm their promises.

Today, we rejoice with them as they renew their vows of marriage. We celebrate continued commitment and we admire their dedication to the promises of love they made on their wedding day. The essence of their promise is unconditional love and the acceptance of each other as companion, lover, and friend.

Grm and Bde's lives have been blessed with (number) child(ren), (names and ages of children).

Love is one of the highest experiences that we as human beings can have. Love gives our lives purpose and meaning.

Reading

Bde and Grm have asked (name) to read (name of reading) by (author).

See Reading section for ideas.

Reaffirmation Vows

We are here today to celebrate the love that Grm and Bde have for each other as they renew their vows of marriage. Having already entered into the state of marriage they have come here today to repledge their love for each other.

Grm and Bde please join hands and renew your vows.

To Husband: Do you Grm renew your vows of love and marriage to Bde? Do you pledge to share your life openly with her, to speak the truth with her in love? Do you promise to tenderly care for her, to cherish her, and to encourage her own fulfillment as an individual through all the changes of your lives?

If so please say: "I do."

To Wife: Do you Bde renew your vows of love and marriage to Grm? Do you pledge to share your life openly with him, to speak the truth with him in love? Do you promise to tenderly care for him, to cherish him, and to encourage his own fulfillment as an individual through all the changes of your lives?

If so please say: "I do."

Unity Candle

Please celebrate your renewed commitment by uniting the two flames before us into one – symbolizing and reminding us how marriage takes two individuals and makes us one through love.

Benediction

May Grm and Bde continue to keep the covenant they have made in marriage and renewed this day. May they be a blessing and a comfort to each other, sharers of each other's joys, consolers in each other's sorrows, helpers to each other in all the challenges of life. May they encourage each other in all the challenges of life. May this renewal of their marriage vows be a reminder of the love they share for each other.

Please seal your renewed vows with a kiss.

Reaffirmation Ceremony No. 3 A religious ceremony.

Convocation

Friends, this is a joyous occasion, a time to look back and a time to look ahead. We gather here, today, to share in the joy and the gratitude of Bde and Grm, in this ceremony of marriage renewal. It is fitting that you take this opportunity to reaffirm before God, your loved ones and friends, your love and commitment to each other.

Today you are celebrating what your happiness has meant over the years you have had together. When you began your life together, you could not have imagined what the future had in store for you. And now, years later, here you are to commemorate yesterday's memories, today's love, and tomorrow's dreams.

As you recall and remember your years together, they have undoubtedly been years "laden with happiness and tears." On the day of your wedding, you were united out of your separateness. It was a time of joy and celebration. That happiness has deepened as you have encouraged each other's growth and taken pleasure in that growth.

You have experienced companionship as you have supported each other in the daily task of living. There have been times of fun with each other, with your family and with your friends. You have known the delight and satisfaction of raising children, of watching each one grow and mature, and of encouraging the development of their own unique personality. You have been thankful for love that enriches, fulfills and binds together your daily experiences.

Your years together have been full and happy, yet they have also been laden with tears. There were undoubtedly times when you both wondered if your marriage would endure the strains and pressures of living. In the beginning you struggled to know, to understand, and to adjust to each other's differences.

There may have been disagreements as to what constituted your chosen priorities, values, and goals. You may have had financial worries as you each attempted to establish yourself in your respective careers. You had to learn to cope with the responsibilities of a newborn child as you labored to learn what parenting is all about and as you strove to find unity in your tasks of parenting. You also had to learn how to communicate in meaningful ways and to show caring to one another. These are yesterday's memories. And through all of this, you endured and grew and changed.

Today you celebrate not only yesterday's memories, but today's love. This means continuing to give your marriage the priority it needs, placing it ahead of your careers, so that it becomes the cornerstone of your home. You will want to take time to deepen and strengthen your relationship. You will continue to support each other as each of you grows and changes with the passing years; and you will be willing to change patterns and roles in response to each other's needs. As you respond to each other in this way, your love will become stronger, enriching each passing day. Today's love also makes you especially grateful for the uniqueness of each other's personality – the uniqueness that once attracted you to each other and now cements your relationship.

Yesterday's memories and today's love – these are very real. But also you honor tomorrow's dreams. In the years ahead you will see your children establish themselves and you will enjoy their friendship and companionship. There will be more time for you to fulfill some of your own personal dreams with each other as your parenting responsibilities lessen. There will be opportunities for personal and spiritual growth with each other as well as a willingness to venture together into uncharted and unknown areas of living. There will be comfort and caring as you experience some of life's losses and grief. You will keep your relationship alive and growing so that it continues to be ever more meaningful to you both.

Invocation

We are gathered together here to renew your marriage vows and commitment to each other. Marriage is an honorable estate, instituted by God. It is to be entered into and continued reverently with love and devotion.

You come today to renew the Holy Covenant that you made (number) years ago, and to continue your pledge of faith, each to the other. And if steadfastly you endeavor to continue to do the will of God, He will continue to bless your marriage and will grant you fulfillment within it and will establish your home in peace.

Expression of Intent

Grm and Bde, please join hands and renew your vows.

To Husband: Grm, having had Bde as your wedded wife for these past (number) years, do you here in the presence of God, family and friends, renew your vows?

Husband: I do.

To Husband: Will you continue to love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all other keep thee only unto her, so long as you both shall live?

Husband: I will.

To Wife: Bde, having had Grm as your wedded husband for these past (number) years, do you here in the presence of God, family and friends, renew your vows?

Wife: I do.

To Wife: Will you continue to love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all other keep thee only unto him, so long as you both shall live?

Wife: I will.

Reaffirmation Vows

To Husband: Grm, please repeat after me.

I continue to take thee Bde, / to be my wedded wife, / to have and to hold, / from this day forward, / for better, for worse, / for richer, for poorer, / in sickness and in health, / to love and to cherish, / till death us do part, / thereto, I pledge thee my faith.

To Wife: Bde, please repeat after me.

I continue to take thee Grm, / to be my wedded husband, / to have and to hold, / from this day forward, / for better, for worse, / for richer, for poorer, / in sickness and in health, / to love and to cherish, / till death us do part, / thereto, I pledge thee my faith.

Exchange of Gifts

In the language of flowers the rose is the symbol of love. To commemorate the renewal of their vows, Grm and Bde are presenting each other with a single rose as a symbol of their love.

Husband and Wife exchange Roses.

Please seal your covenant with a kiss.

Benediction

For as much as each of you have continued in holy wedlock and have renewed your vows, pledging again your faith and love, each to the other, may you go forth as husband and wife together; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Eternal God, creator and preserver of all mankind, giver of all spiritual grace, the author of everlasting life, send Thy blessing upon Grm and Bde, that they may keep the covenant between them made, and may they ever remain in love and peace together.

Look graciously upon them, that they may love, honor and cherish each other, and so live together in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true love, that their home may be a haven of blessing and a place of peace.

Sample Reaffirmation Vows

1.

Reaffirmation Vows

To Wife and Husband: As you come today to reaffirm your wedding vows and as you reflect back over all your years together as husband and wife, do you now reaffirm the vows you took (number) years ago?

If “yes,” please say “We do”

To Husband: Grm, please repeat after me as you reaffirm your vows.

I, Grm, renew my vows / to take you, Bde, to be my wife; / to have and to hold. / from this day forward, / for better for worse, / for richer for poorer, / in sickness and in health, / to love and to cherish always.

To Wife: Bde, please repeat after me as you reaffirm your vows.

I, Bde, renew my vows / to take you, Grm, to be my husband; / to have and to hold. / from this day forward, / for better for worse, / for richer for poorer, / in sickness and in health, / to love and to cherish always.

2.

Reaffirmation Vows

Grm and Bde, please join hands and renew your vows.

To Husband: Grm, please repeat after me.

I, Grm, / take you, Bde, / to be my wedded wife. / And I promise and covenant anew, / before God and these witnesses, / to be your loving and faithful husband, / in plenty and in want, / in joy and in sorrow, / in sickness and in health, / for as long as we both shall live.

To Wife: Bde, please repeat after me.

I, Bde, / take you, Grm, / to be my wedded husband. / And I promise and covenant anew, / before God and these witnesses, / to be your loving and

faithful wife, / in plenty and in want, / in joy and in sorrow, / in sickness and in health, / for as long as we both shall live.

3. Renewing the original vows.

If you have the original vows of your wedding day, those vows can be renewed.

Reaffirmation Vows

Grm and Bde, please join hands and renew your vows.

To Bride and Groom: Remembering your vows, made so many years ago on (date) do you now reaffirm these vows and your love for each other?

Bride and Groom:We do.

The Officiant reads the vows from the couple's wedding.

4.

Reaffirmation Vows

Grm and Bde, please join hands and renew your vows.

The Officiant hands a copy of the Vows to the Bride
and a copy to the Groom.

Husband:

Once before I have stood with you before family and friends; once again I take your hands as my partner.

Bde, I take you this day and for all days as my wife.

I believe in this marriage more strongly than ever. Bde, it is with joy born of experience and trust that I commit myself once again to be your husband.

Wife:

Once before I have stood with you before family and friends; once again I take your hand as my partner.

Grm, I take you this day and for all days as my husband.

I believe in this marriage more strongly than ever. Grm, it is with joy born of experience and trust that I commit myself once again to be your wife.

Sample Expressions of Intent and Personal Vows

Use these samples for ideas to write your own individual Expression of Intent. Personalize your Vows to reflect your life together.

1.

I thank God, our Father, for bringing us together to love and care for each other. Every year, as we have walked through our days together, whether joyous or difficult, I thanked God to have you by my side. You have always been there for me, Bde/Grm filled with love, understanding and encouragement, freely offering a smile and a hug. Today, as we reaffirm our wedding vows, I commit my life to you anew and I vow to be a loving, true and faithful wife/husband as long as we both shall live.

2.

Bde/Grm, ours has been a fairy tale love story – from that first day we met until this very moment, our love has been one to be envied. We have been partners who grew more and more in love each day as we journeyed through life together. Our children have been the fruit of our love, and our grandchildren as well. We have a lifetime of shared memories, shared joys, shared sorrows, and our love has soared above it all. Today, as we renew our wedding vows before our beloved friends and family, I do so as an expression of how much I love and adore you. Ours is a love story destined to continue until death do us part.

3.

As we stand here today renewing our wedding vows, I recall our wedding day so well. We were so young, so hopeful, so full of dreams. And most of our dreams have come true, but not all. The disappointments sometimes hurt more than we thought they would. And yet, our good times together were even better than we expected. If I could have known then what I know now, would I have married you? Oh, yes, most certainly, and with the same joy and

commitment I feel today as I promise to be your devoted and faithful wife/ husband for whatever years we have left in this life.

4.

On (date) we took our vows, and although I gave my heart to you that day as I recited my vows, I felt some apprehension as we entered the state of matrimony. As I look back now, surveying our years of married life, I have a grateful reminiscence in my heart because of the blessed fulfillment our marriage has been. I give thanks to God for our life together which has been rich beyond measure, and today I reaffirm my wedding vows, but this time with the wisdom gained by years of loving you, and with absolute assurance in my heart. There is no hesitation, no second thoughts, no apprehension today as I promise with all my heart to love and cherish you for all the blessed days God may yet allow us to live together on this earth.

5.

(Number) years ago today we took our wedding vows, and though many things have changed in our lives since then, one thing has remained constant – our love. We had babies and watched them grow up; we built three homes and sold them; we've moved twelve times; we've owned seventeen cars; we've suffered through times of illness, and times when the paycheck didn't stretch to pay the bills. But through it all, my love for you has remained; in fact I love you more every day we are married. I'm so glad I married you that day (number) years ago, and I gladly renew my wedding vows this day. I promise to love you, honor you, cherish and keep you, for better or worse, for richer or poorer, for all the years of our lives. Bde/Grm, I want you to know that whatever may face us in the years to come, I will always love you.

6.

My dear Bde/Grm, you are a revered wife/husband and mother/father, always filling our hearts with your love. You have kept our home contented and happy. Our children love and honor you, and our friends and family stand by you, eternally grateful for the love you have extended as you've helped and comforted those in need. You are the most unselfish man/woman I know and I consider it the greatest honor of my life to have been married to you. Today, in the presence of God and this company of friends and family, I freely and publicly renew my wedding vows, pledging again my unwavering love as your

faithful husband/wife. May the Lord bless us with many more happy years together.

7.

Bde/Grm, I can't believe how lucky I was to find you (number) years ago, and I was luckier still when you agreed to marry me. Our marriage has been good, with so many memories of beautiful moments shared. I treasure those memories, they are souvenirs in my heart – memories of you as my friend, my lover, my husband/wife. Our marriage is the most important thing in my life, and you are the most important person. As our love has grown deeper and more comfortable each year, our relationship has gone beyond anything I could have imagined. As we stand before this gathering of our friends and family, I joyfully reaffirm our wedding vows.

8.

(Number) years ago, I chose you to be my husband/wife, and today I choose you again, not because I should, not because it is expected, not because I have no other choice, but because my love for you is even richer and deeper than the day I married you, and I choose you again gladly and without reservation. Choosing each other is an ongoing process, my darling Bde/Grm, and every morning, as I look at your precious face, I choose you anew and rejoice in the fact that you have chosen me. How blessed I am to have you as my husband/wife. You have met all my expectations and given me a life filled with joy. I want to live with you for the rest of my life, not because I should, or because it is expected, but because that is the longing of my heart.

9.

I fell in love with you the first time when we were in high school. And throughout our married life, I have fallen in love with you again a hundred times for a hundred different reasons. We've shared our dreams and built our castles in the air, but when things have been rough and I've been afraid, yours was the hand I wanted to hold – you are the source of my strength. You are still the only man/woman for me and when I think of the years that still lie ahead of us, I fall totally and completely in love with you all over again. How I love you at this moment, and I vow to be a good and faithful husband/wife for all the rest of our days.

10.

Bde/Grm, thank you for your love and your faithfulness to me all these years. It's easy to love someone at first, when we look our best, say the right thing, and are always on our best behavior; but you have seen me at my absolute worst, and still you love me, which makes me love you all the more. Thank you for always being there for me, in every way, and thank you for all you will be to me in the years to come. I pledge again to you this day to love you for the rest of our days.

11.

You are mine, my love, and I am yours, as ordained by God from the beginning of time. He brought us together and He has kept us together, to love and be loved, to cherish and be cherished for all the days of our lives. You are God's gift to me, my priceless treasure, my blessing for life. May He bless us as we come together today to renew our pledge of love to one another.

12.

I remember the first time we met. You were dancing with someone else; I cut in on that poor soul, and we have been dancing together ever since. Our life's dance has been a steady dance, weaving in and out of our days and years together, a quiet, intimate dance of shared thoughts and dreams, through many summers of new-mown grass, through cold, chilling winters, through seasons of tears and laughter. Today we continue our life's dance with a commitment that is as fresh and joyous as the day I married you. Dance with me, Bde/Grm, until the day I die.

13.

Bde/Grm, remembrances fill my heart to overflowing with my love for you. You have been a devoted, loving wife/husband and mother/father and there are no words to express how deep and rich is the love I feel for you this day. I am proud to be your husband/wife and I gladly renew my vows as we celebrate our anniversary.

14.

Bde/Grm, you have been my all, my life for all these years, a loving devoted mother/father and grandmother/grandfather, always giving of yourself with love. You have put our needs and cares above your own, always

nourishing and supporting—a Godly man/woman, seeking His help in all ways and living His love through your words and deeds. I come to you today, my precious, adored husband/wife and give myself to you afresh and anew, as we renew our wedding vows, first pledged (number) years ago. In the presence of our family and friends, I honor you today and I vow to be a faithful husband/wife from this day forward, for as long as the Lord lets us live on this earth.

15.

Thank you, Bde/Grm, for being such a kind, nurturing, loving husband/wife and father/mother. I am so grateful to have found you at such a young age, and that our friendship grew into a love that committed itself to a lifelong marriage. After years of living with you, loving you, and appreciating you, my love for you has deepened and matured, and today, as we stand before our family to reaffirm our wedding vows, I do so with a heart that is overflowing with my love for you, my cherished husband/wife. I give you every measure of myself, committing myself to you anew, as we look forward to the wonderful years yet in store for us as a married couple.

16.

Wife to Husband: When I was a young woman, I had dreams of being married someday, and when you came along, you were truly my Knight in Shining Armor. After (number) years of marriage, I can honestly say that you have been all that I could have imagined or hoped for: my lover, my companion, my friend, my nurturer, my comforter, and a model father. I am so lucky to have found you and I pray to be worthy of such a man; today, as we celebrate our anniversary, I gladly and joyfully take you again as my husband and I promise anew, as I vowed on our wedding day, to love and respect you, for richer or poorer, in sickness or in health, for better or worse, until death do us part. Thank you for being my Knight in Shining Armor.

17.

Husband to Wife: I remember that Saturday morning, (number) years ago, when you walked down the aisle and into my arms, my beautiful bride. We had such great expectations of each other. We hoped that every day would be as glorious and happy as the day of our wedding. Every day could not be as glorious and happy as that day, as we discovered through our years together, but you never disappointed me; your love was constant and steady; you were

always there for me, no matter what the circumstances. How I love you still, my beautiful bride, and how proud I am to be your husband. I gladly renew the promises I made to you (number) years ago, and I pledge myself to you again this day with a love as fresh as the day I married you.

18.

Husband to Wife:

You are still my bride, my precious one, as beautiful and lovely as the day I married you on (date). You are the most important person in my life and I intend to keep it that way. Our marriage has succeeded because we have kept the laughter and thrown out the pain; although we have winked at life and laughed at its transient problems, we have always taken our marriage seriously. Marriage is a fragile thing, and one that has lasted as long as ours is precious beyond value, to be held carefully and cherished forever. As we celebrate our (years) of marriage today, in the presence of our family and friends, I reaffirm my vows, spoken first on that day in (year), to love you, to comfort you, to honor and keep you, in sickness and in health, in sorrow and in joy, and to be faithful to you as long as we both shall live.