



#### WORKING WITH A CELEBRANT

Humanist Ceremonies celebrants are warm, friendly, professional people. They have a wealth of experience and will be happy to advise you on the full range of issues, big and small, that planning your ceremony might entail. Your celebrant will take time to get to know you and, working with you, will develop the ceremony that best reflects your personalities, passions, and approach to life.

#### ARRANGING A HUMANIST WEDDING CEREMONY

Your relationship with your celebrant is an important one. Our website [humanistceremonies.org.uk/weddings](http://humanistceremonies.org.uk/weddings) enables you to see who conducts weddings in your chosen area.

You can then contact them to ask about their approach, check availability, and confirm fees, perhaps talking to several people to see who you feel most comfortable with. Once you have booked a celebrant, you will arrange to meet and thoroughly discuss your ideas and what you want from the day. If you live a long distance away, this meeting can be held online.

Your celebrant will draft an individual script for you with the final version being agreed well before the big day. Most celebrants recommend a final meeting or rehearsal at the venue, often the day before the wedding. This is a great opportunity to check last minute details, soothe any nerves, and work through any practical issues.

"Thanks for your intuition about the structure of the ceremony, and your calm and reassuring presence on the day."

"The most personal ceremony I've ever attended."

# Humanist Ceremonies

## WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

**Humanists** are people who shape their own lives in the here and now, because we believe it's the only life we have. We make sense of the world through logic, reason, and evidence, and always seek to treat those around us with warmth, understanding, and respect.

**Humanists UK** advances free thinking and promotes humanism to create a tolerant society where rational thinking and kindness prevail. Our work brings non-religious people together to develop their own views, helping people be happier and more fulfilled in the one life we have. For over 120 years, we've been the leading provider of meaningful, personalised, non-religious ceremonies.

**Humanist Ceremonies™** is the network of non-religious celebrants trained, accredited, insured, and quality-assured by Humanists UK.

We are the UK's longest standing provider of non-religious ceremonies and provide individually-prepared ceremonies to mark important occasions in life such as the arrival of a child, weddings and funerals. 98% of feedback received awards us 5/5.

*Meaningful non-religious ceremonies just for you*

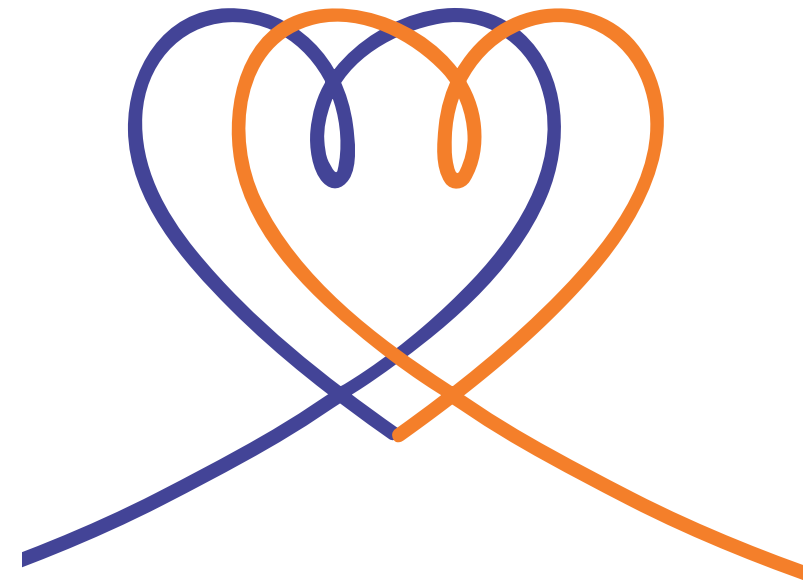
 Humanists UK

Registered Charity No. 285987

# Humanist Ceremonies

## WEDDINGS

### YOUR WEDDING, YOUR WAY



Find out more at  
[humanistceremonies.org.uk/weddings](http://humanistceremonies.org.uk/weddings)

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## Humanist weddings: for a personal, authentic, and fitting start to married life.

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The decision to marry is an important milestone, one that should be marked in a way that is absolutely right for you.

For many of us, the ritual and words of a religious ceremony do not fit with a non-religious outlook on life, and a civil or register office ceremony often feels impersonal and unsatisfying.

Humanist weddings give you the flexibility to create an occasion that celebrates your marriage your way. You can get to know the person who will be conducting your wedding, choose your own words and marry where and when you like.

Every one of our humanist weddings is unique. No two people are the same and so no two ceremonies are the same either.

Our weddings are inclusive and designed to be meaningful and poignant to everyone present, whatever their beliefs. Fun or romantic, traditional or deeply personal, you can set whatever tone you like.



"People really liked the happy, relaxed feel, and the fact that it was something different! We just loved it, it was perfect!"

"Our wedding ceremony was so truly wonderful and personal. It told all of our friends and family exactly who we both are and what we mean to each other."

### WHAT A HUMANIST CEREMONY INVOLVES

The ceremony might be short or long, follow quite a traditional structure or include more original ideas. Whatever you choose to include, the focus of the ceremony will be the two of you.

You might want to have music (live or recorded), poetry or readings or some group singing. And you have complete freedom to write your own promises to each other. These truly personal words are made all the more significant when delivered in public.

Some couples also like to include a special symbolic action to mark their marriage such as handfasting or sand-blending; your celebrant will be happy to discuss all the options with you.


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### EXAMPLE OF A CEREMONY

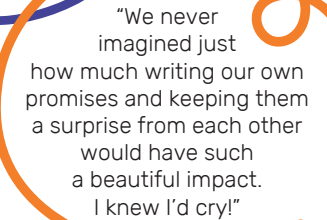
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Although every humanist wedding is unique, a typical ceremony might be structured as follows:

- Arrival of the couple (individually or together)
- Introductions and welcomes
- Words about love and commitment
- Reading or poem
- The couple's story – how they met, shared values, hopes for the future
- What marriage means to the couple
- Reading or poem
- Asking guests for encouragement
- The couple's promises
- Meaningful symbolic act e.g. handfasting
- Exchange of rings
- Pronouncement as married
- Words of well-wishing
- Exit



"Being able to design our ceremony so that it included our children was very important to us."



"We never imagined just how much writing our own promises and keeping them a surprise from each other would have such a beautiful impact. I knew I'd cry!"

### MAKING IT LEGAL

Couples say that they feel their humanist wedding is their real wedding, as what matters is celebrating their happiness and making their commitments in a way they have chosen, in front of the people that mean the most to them.

Nonetheless, Humanist weddings and partnerships are not recognised in law outside Scotland, Jersey and the Republic of Ireland, and so most couples will go to a register office in the days before or after their humanist ceremony to deal with the legal formalities.

Humanism places people, their wishes, and beliefs at the centre of the ceremony, and our ceremonies offer considerable flexibility in design, content, and location.

