Renewal of Wedding Vows...
Rekindle the Romance

There are many reasons for couples to renew their wedding vows - and it makes a wonderful gift to give your parents too!
The primary reason marriages fail is because the romance whither away. Over the years, grievances and hurts add up - with it difficult to find a way to leave those all behind. A renewal of vows ceremony is both a re-affirmation and a renewal - for which mistakes and regrets can be left behind.
Renewal of Vows ceremonies are often used by couples who married at the courthouse - who now what a REAL ceremony. Renewal ceremonies are often given as gifts my children to their parents as a way of saying thank you - or even in return for all the time and expense the parents put into their wedding. Sometimes such ceremonies are in the setting of a family reunion.
Usually, Renewal of Vows is held on the couple’s anniversary date - which may well be a mid-week evening wedding at the home. A renewal of vows ceremony can be as formal or casual as you wish.
Below is one renewal of vows ceremony. However, any of the wedding ceremonies on this site can quickly be reworded to a renewal ceremony. If you have the original vows of the couple, these also can be used in the renewal ceremony.
They are also used as an occasion when a married couple “upgrade” their wedding rings now that they can afford to do so.
Finally, a renewal of vows ceremony is an excellent opportunity to involve the children - young or old - in the ceremony via lighting the unity candles, exchange of roses etc.
Few things more rekindle a marriage than a formal renewal of marriage vows. No license is required for this.
Renewal of Vows Wedding Ceremony

We are gathered here today to celebrate one of life’s greatest moments, to give recognition to the worth and beauty of love, and to add our best wishes to the words which shall unite ________________________ and ________________________ in marriage.

Should there be anyone who has cause why this couple should not be united in marriage, they must speak now or forever hold their peace.

(If the bride is escorted forward)

Who is it that brings this woman to this man?

(The father, children, relative etc. may give the bride away. He/they answer "I do", "I do on behalf of the family", or "her mother and I". This person then steps back and the groom takes the bride’s hand.)

___________________ and __________________, life is given to each of us as individuals, and yet we must learn to live together. Love is given to us by our family or by our friends. We learn to love by being loved. Learning to love and living together is one of the greatest challenges of life - and is the shared goal of a married life.

VOWS

(Vows used unless other vows are wished. You may change the vows as you wish)

(Groom) ________________________, do you take ________________________ to be your Wife? Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect her, forsaking all others and holding only unto her?

(Bride) I, ________________________, do you take ________________________ to be your Husband? Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect him, forsaking all others and holding only unto him?

RINGS

(Rings are not required)

(If ring/rings are exchanged each does so before repeating the following vows - unless you wish other vows or do not wish to repeat)

Wedding rings are an outward and visible sign of an inward spiritual grace and the unbroken circle of love, signifying to all the union of this man and this woman in marriage.

(Groom) I, ________________________, take thee ________________________, to be my Wife. To have and to hold, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, and I promise my love to you. (With this ring, I thee wed.)
I, ______________________, take thee ______________________, to be my Husband. To have and to hold, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, and I promise my love to you.

(If there are children of the marriage sometimes couples will give a flower or small gift such as a necklace or ring to the child and say a short statement that they also are now part of the new family. I believe it very important to mention children’s names in the ceremony. If you have minor children coming into the marriage, if you provide their names I will mention them as is appropriate.)

__________________________ and __ ______________________, as you this day renew your marriage vows which united you as husband and wife, and as you this day affirm your faith and love for one another, I would ask that you always remember to cherish each other as special and unique individuals, that you respect the thoughts, ideas and suggestions of one another. Be able to forgive, do not hold grudges, and live each day that you may share it together - as you shall remain each other’s home, comfort and refuge, your marriage strengthened by your love and respect for each other.

(BIBLE VERSE - if desired. Non-religious reading from the following sheet or others may be used in it’s place if wished)

A marriage ceremony represents one of life’s greatest commitments. But it also is a declaration of love. I wish to read to you what Paul wrote of love in a letter to the Corinthians. I believe it is a true model of love and it is a model of love I hope you pursue in your marriage:

"Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud.

Love is never haughty or selfish or rude.

Love does not demand it’s own way. Love is not irritable or touchy. Love does not hold grudges and will hardly notice when others do it wrong.

Love is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out.

If you love someone, you will be loyal to them no matter what the costs. You will always believe in them, always expect the best in them, and will always stand your ground in defending them."

(PRAYER if desired. You may alter this or replace it with a non-religious or non-denominational reading if you wish.)

Dear Heavenly Father, (or "Oh Lord") our hearts are filled with great happiness as __________ and __________ renewal their marriage vows and today reaffirm their faith and love for one another. Grant that they may ever be true and loving, living together in such a way as to never bring shame or heartbreak into their marriage. Temper their hearts with kindness and understanding, rid them of all pretense or jealousy. Help them to remember to be each other’s sweetheart, helpmate, friend and guide, so that together they may meet the cares and problems of life more bravely. And with the passage
of time, may they find great contentment in the rich joy of senior companionship. May the home they are reaffirming today truly be a place of love and harmony, where Your Spirit is always present. Bless this marriage we pray and walk beside __________ and __________________ throughout all of their lives together.

We ask these things in Jesus name; Amen

UNITY CANDLES

(If unity candles are used/optional. If the Rose Ceremony is used, it is placed after the unity candle ceremony or in place of it.)

______________ and ____________________, the two separate candles symbolize your separate lives, separate families and separate sets of friends. I ask that each of you take on of the lit candles and that together you light the center candle.

The individual candles represent your lives before you first married. Lighting the center candle represents that your two lives are now joined to one light, and represents the joining together of your two families and sets of friends to one.

(For couples who are adding music to the ceremony, it is usually placed either here or after the vows are repeated earlier.)

PRONOUNCEMENT

______________ and ____________________, in so much as the two of you have agreed to live together in Holy Matrimony, have promised your love for each other by these vows, the joining of your hands and the giving of these rings, I now declare you to be Husband and Wife.

Whom God hath joined together, let no one put asunder.

Congratulations, you may kiss your bride.

It is my honor to present to you Mr. & Mrs. __________________________
The Rose Ceremony
The Rose Ceremony may be added to any other ceremony
In the Rose Ceremony, the Bride and Groom give each other a Rose. Two roses
are all that is necessary.
If you have children coming into the ceremony, you may have a rose for each of
them too - see "Ways to Involve Children" Section. The Rose Ceremony is placed
at the end of the ceremony just before being pronounced husband and wife.
In more elegant days, flowers were used as a means of communication. Each
Flower had a special meaning. In the old language of flowers, a single red rose
always meant "I love you". The Rose ceremony gives recognition to the new and
most honorable title of "Husband and Wife".
This ceremony originates in a classic rose ceremony from a lost and elegant age.
Though the words of the classic Rose ceremony long ago lost, this ceremony was
rewritten by the Hon. Mark Ovard explaining the true meaning of the ceremony -
and in ways that can endure through your married life together - this is a unique and
meaningful addition to any marriage ceremony - that also inspires your guests too.
**Words of the Rose Ceremony:**

"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 honorable 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. *(Sometimes a couple will play a special song at this point).*

In someways 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.

_________ and _____________, I would ask that where ever you make your home in the future - whether it be a large and elegant home - or a small and graceful one - that you both pick one very special location for roses; so that on each anniversary of this truly wonderful occasion you both may take a rose to that spot both as a recommitment to your marriage - and a recommitment that THIS will be a marriage based upon love.

In every marriage there are times where it is difficult to find the right words. It is easiest to hurt who we most love. It is easiest to be most hurt by who we most love.

It might be difficult some time to words to say "I am sorry" or "I forgive you"; "I need you" or "I am hurting". If this should happen, if you simply can not find these words, leave a rose at that spot which both of you have selected - for that rose than says what matters most of all and should overpower all other things and all other words. That rose says the words: "I still love you."

The other should accept this rose for the words which can not be found, and remember the love and hope that you both share today. ___________ and _________, if there is anything you remember of this marriage ceremony, it is that it was love that brought you here today, is only love which can make it a glorious union, and it is by love which your marriage shall endure."

You make any changes you wish to the rose ceremony or any other ceremony to suit it to a Renewal Of Vows ceremony. GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR RENEWAL CEREMONY & KEEP THE ROMANCE IN YOUR MARRIAGE ALIVE!

http://www.dfwx.com/renewal.htm
The following examples adapted from Diane Warner’s Complete Book of Wedding Vows. A couple may say these words to one another just before they take the vows of their choice.

“You are mine, my love, and I am yours, as ordained by God from the beginning of time. God brought us together, kept us together. You are God’s gift to me, my priceless treasure, my blessing for life. May God bless us as we come together before our family and friends to renew our pledge of love to one another, eternal.”

Writing your own vows would be most appropriate as well. Try the following to help you with the writing of your personalized wedding vows:

- Go through a book of vows and jot down all the words and phrases you like on a piece of paper.

Answer these questions:
- How do I love my wife/husband? How has our love grown over the years?
- How has my husband/wife made me a better person?
- For what am I most grateful to my wife/husband? What is my pledge to him/her for the future?

Equipped with the research and their answers, a couple is often better able to express what is in their heart. Remember that love brings even the most reticent tongue to verse! Some of the most beautiful vows I have heard come from those who have never written before. Also, in answering these questions, you are creating a precious document. How often do we take the time to complete such an exercise? You will cherish these words for the rest of your lives---and perhaps can even pass it along to your children one day.

**WEDDING VOW RENEWAL TIPS**

- Involve the children: Click here for ways to involve children in the vow renewal.
- It is customary for the husband to escort the bride down the aisle.
- Recreate your original bouquet and/or wedding cake.
- Return to your original honeymoon destination, staying at the same hotel if possible.
- Display your first wedding photograph.
- Display photographs of your first wedding specially framed on reception tables and allow guests to take them home as favors.
- Read more about wedding vow renewal etiquette.
Examples to Renew Wedding Vows

"Once before, I have stood with you before family and friends; once again, I take your hand as my partner. (Name), I take you this day, and for all days, as my (husband/wife)."

"I am proud to marry you on this day. I promise to wipe away your tears with my laughter and your pain with my caring and compassion. We will wipe clean the old canvases of our lives and let God, with His amazing artistic talent, fill them with new colors, harmony and beauty. I give myself to you completely, and I promise to love you always, from this day forth."

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

"I, (name), give to you, (name), a new promise, and yet not so new; a new (husband/wife), and yet not so new; and a new affirmation of love from the heart that has loved you for (__) years and will love you for as many more as God allots to it."

Know that there are sections for vow renewals in most wedding books. Your readings can be tailored to a more mature love. The Anniversary Song by Naomi Long Madgett is popular with couples and is often read along side a biblical verse.

http://www.idotaketwo.com/renewing_wedding_vows.html

Vow Renewal Etiquette

- **Vow Renewals are Not second weddings.** Unless somewhere along the way to happily ever after you and your spouse divorced and are now remarrying, this is not a second wedding. This is, however, an opportunity to reaffirm your marriage vows and love of one another, or perhaps a chance to have your marriage blessed by the church.

- **Bachelor / Bachelorette Parties?** These parties are typically thought of as your “last night out as a single person”, so, as tempting as it may sound, the fact is that the last hurrah ship sailed a long time ago. You are a married couple.

- **Shower with love, not with gifts.** Traditionally, the bridal shower is a time when friends and family can shower the bride with items she will need to begin her married life. A shower is also an event to help make guests feel as if they are a part of the wedding planning process. Again, you are already married and have a home set up. When it comes to vow renewals, encourage friends and family to shower you with love and support, rather than gifts.
Resist the urge to register.
While a vow renewal or reaffirmation is a celebratory occasion, it is generally not viewed as a gift-giving situation. In fact, if gifts are mentioned or requested by the couple, the focus may shift away from the ceremony of love. While writing “no gifts please” on a wedding invitation is not acceptable, it is perfectly acceptable to include such wording in a vow renewal invitation. All that said, if you are hosting this event in honor of an anniversary then some people may want to give you an anniversary gift. Any time gifts are given, be gracious and always send a timely thank you note.

Plan well, because you are the hostess with the mostess.
A reaffirmation is a ceremony and party you are hosting for yourself. Unlike college, grad school and your wedding, parents are not typically involved in the finances of a reaffirmation ceremony or vow renewal.

Make this day special, but different from, your wedding day.
You’re at a new stage in your life and love, so it stands to reason that your vow renewal or reaffirmation ceremony should be different from your wedding day. While it’s a nice idea to incorporate some of the traditions from your wedding day, take this opportunity to make new ones as well.

Let your hair down.
If a wedding is about proclaiming your love with a big fancy dress, big fancy ceremony and reception and big fancy cake...the renewal ceremony is more of a simple, understated, private affair. Of course, there are exceptions to every rule. If you are recreating your original wedding ceremony, all bets are off.

Attendants become attendees.
Did you realize that attendants are basically witnesses? Although you may want them at your reaffirmation ceremony or vow renewal, they do not necessarily need to function in an official capacity. Many women will try to recreate their first wedding for a benchmark anniversary. If this is the case, using your original attendants is fine. But, it is better to simply invite them as guests.

The only thing given away is your love.
None of us are “given away.” This term isn’t even used for wedding ceremonies anymore. While fathers typically walk the bride down the aisle during weddings, this doesn’t seem appropriate for vow renewals because the couple is already married. The father doesn’t need to publicly show his approval or support of the marriage and the father is not handing the daughter off to her new husband. When it comes to reaffirmation ceremonies, the husband and wife could walk the aisle together or she should walk alone. While the couple’s children and grandchildren may accompany her down the aisle, a procession is not necessary for this ceremony. Our favorite option has the couple entering from the sides of the room walking toward each other and the altar.

Bundle your love in a bouquet.
Flowers are perfect for most occasions, and your reaffirmation ceremony is no exception. Put together your bouquet with care and consideration, so that it reflects your love for one another.
Reaffirmation rings are often part of the ceremony.
While some couples have a real connection to their wedding rings, others view the vow renewal ceremony as an opportunity to exchange new rings. Whatever you choose, be sure to discuss this sensitive issue thoroughly with your spouse.

**AFTER the Vow Renewal Ceremony (RECEPTION or PARTY)**
Couples often have numerous questions about the party that follows their vow renewal ceremony. Can it be a giant bash? Can the party have the traditional wedding reception components?

While the reception (party) can be similar to a wedding reception, there should be notable differences.

- **Use a receiving line for large gatherings.**
  All of your guests should be acquainted with you, but for the large gatherings it is helpful to form a receiving line so you may introduce your children or other family members to your guests. Because you are the host, you will be the first in line.

- **The traditional reception dances will be different.**
  The father/daughter dance just doesn't seem right, does it? After all, the wife has been living with her husband for some time. So, while you may not want to include all those traditional dances as part of your reception, you could still dance a couple’s first dance which will signify the first dance of the next phase of their life together. You might also consider inventing some of your own dances. For instance, you could call all couples to the dance floor who have been married for ten years or more.

- **Not so much a wedding cake as an “anniversary’ type cake.**
  The reaffirmation cake is sometimes recreated from the couple’s wedding, including the topper. However, this should be more of an 'anniversary' type cake. So, including writing on the cake would be appropriate.

- **Toast away!**
  Toasts are a great way to celebrate the couple in this new phase of their life. Of course, for a reaffirmation ceremony or vow renewal, the toasts should reflect upon the couple’s continued love, not upon the couple finding each other (as it is for the wedding reception). Keep in mind, though, that there is no best man toast because there is no best man. The wife already married her best man.

- **Toss out the garter and bouquet toss.**
  You’re not alone if you find these traditions more than just a bit silly for a married couple. Would you believe that both of these customs began as a way to keep wedding guests from tearing the bride’s clothes?! It was viewed as good luck to snatch a piece of her clothing. Perhaps you can create a new tradition of your own, instead.

Whatever you choose to include in your wedding vow renewal ceremony, use good, common sense. Consider your guest’s opinions about your event and ask yourself why you are hosting it in the first place. If you sincerely consider everything, you’ll probably
avoid any major etiquette faux pas. So, enjoy yourself and each other and create an affair to remember.
renewing your vows - civil ceremonies

If you were not married in a church, finding an official way to renew your vows has, until recently, been difficult. Of course, you could always get your friends and family to gather round once again, but now many local authorities have begun providing celebrants who will perform Renewal ceremonies in many of the register offices and approved venues in which you can have a civil wedding.

Although these ceremonies have no legal standing, they are renewal ceremonies and the celebrants will not perform them on non-married couples.

The Renewal of Marriage Vows Ceremony has a range of sections available with choices to make within those sections, helping you to create your own Ceremony. According to your preferences, the Ceremony can contain the following sections:

- Introduction and welcome
- Acknowledgement of any children of the marriage
- Reading Renewal of Vows
- Rededication of ring(s)
- Giving and receiving of new rings or gifts
- Words from previous wedding guest (often Best Man, Bridesmaid or Bride’s father)
- Further reading
- Signing of Certificate
- Witnesses
- Closing words

Discuss which elements you would like to include with your Celebrant. A Renewal of Vows ceremony is normally 15 minutes and up to 30 minutes depending on the number of options and readings chosen. A souvenir certificate is signed during the ceremony by the couple and two witnesses.

Renewal ceremonies do not need to take place years after the first marriage. In fact they are a perfect solution for those who are planning on a small marriage abroad, followed by a larger celebration at home. Unlike a marriage ceremony, a renewal ceremony can be held in the local authority of your choice. The cost varies from authority to authority.

http://www.confetti.co.uk/weddings/advice_ideas/ceremony/renew.asp
Sample Vows for a Vow Renewal Ceremony

Finding The Right Words to Say at Your Vow Renewal

Renewing your wedding vows? Congratulations! Since you may have chosen a vow renewal for a variety of reasons, there are a wide variety of words you can say. Many people write their own vows, emphasizing the reasons that they have chosen to "do it all over again." Here are some sample vows that you can personalize:

Renewing Your Wedding Vows for an Anniversary

(spouse's name), 25 years ago, I pledged my love and commitment to you, but it seems like only yesterday. I promised to love you, honor you, comfort and keep you. I pledges to be by your side in sickness and in health, in times of want, and times of plenty, for better or worse, for the rest of our lives. We have had all of those things, and you have been by my side as we created a family, a home, and a life together. Today, at the beginning of our 26th year as husband and wife, in the presence of God, and our family and friends, I renew my vows to you, pledging my eternal love for you, and eagerly awaiting what life may bring us.

Renewing Your Wedding Vows After an Infidelity, Illness or other Stressful Time

On our wedding day, I pledged many things to you, including my faithfulness. With great sorrow and regret, I acknowledge that I broke that vow but I realize now the enormity of my mistake. Others come and go, but you are the constant in my life whom I will always love. I believe in this marriage more than ever, and I reaffirm my love and commitment to you.

On our wedding day, I pledged to love you in sickness and in health, and for better or worse. The past year has tested those vows, but our enduring love for one another has prevailed. I come here today to make a fresh start, to renew our vows of love, honor, and fidelity, and to reaffirm my love for you.

6 years ago, I promised to love you for as long as we both should live. I never imagined that I would face losing you so soon, or the depths of despair I would feel at that prospect. Today, we are on the other side of the mountain, and I am so ecstatic that I get to continue life's journey by your side. Once again, I promise to love you, honor you and keep you, for better or worse, in sickness and in health, for as long as we both shall live.

Vow Renewal After a Private Wedding or Small Wedding

With great joy I pledged my love and commitment to you on our wedding day. But a loving relationship does not exist in a vacuum. Our family and friends first showed us how to love, helped us grow, and supported us when we found each other. I hope they will continue to love and support us as we love and support them. Therefore, I am delighted today, in the presence of these witnesses, to reaffirm my commitment to you, and once again, to promise to love you, honor you, and comfort you, in sickness and in health, for richer, for poorer, for better and for worse, as long as we both shall live.

Getting a Church Blessing

Typically the words you will say at a vow renewal are the same words you would say at any type of wedding. The officiant may make remarks about renewal, and any songs or readings may speak specially of lasting love or rebirth. Speak with your officiant about what is appropriate in your religion.
Vow Renewals

A Guide to Renewing Your Wedding Vows

In this world where divorce seems to be the norm, a couple managing to stay together through thick and thin deserves some celebration! If you and your spouse have made it to a significant anniversary, or you just want to have a "do-over" wedding, consider a vow renewal.

Reasons You Might Want a Vow Renewal

- You want to celebrate your 5-year, 10-year, 25-year etc. wedding anniversary
- You only got married legally before, and now want to marry religiously
- You only got married religiously before, and now want to marry legally
- Your first wedding had some element of disaster, and you want a do-over
- You didn't have much money for your first wedding, and you want a more elaborate wedding
- You got married with only a few people present, and you'd like to say wedding vows in front of lots of family and friends
- You've had some rocky times in your relationship, and would now like to reaffirm your commitment to one another
- You think it would be romantic

The focus of any wedding, but especially a vow renewal, should be the promises you are making to each other, and the sacred ritual of marriage, not the party.

How to renew your wedding vows

The good news is, there are far less rules and dos and don'ts about vow renewal than almost any other kind of ritual. It can be as simple as the two of you alone in a beautiful spot reciting vows you have written, or a fancy affair with hundreds of guests.

First Steps

Just as with any wedding planning, you should begin by figuring out what style of ceremony/reception you’d like, deciding a budget, picking a date and finding a venue. Some couples who are older will have much more money than when they wed the first time; others whose parents helped the first time will have far less. The good news is that vow renewals are generally cheaper than first weddings, and with less rules on what "should" be done, you can really concentrate on the elements that are important to you.
How Elaborate Should a Vow Renewal Be?

The answer to this question lies in your own reason for wanting a vow renewal ceremony. Many people chose to renew their vows because they were so caught up in the planning and the partying of their first wedding, they felt the focus of the day was taken off of the ceremony. Therefore, most vow renewals tend to be intimate celebrations, with only close family and friends present, and a lunch afterwards at a nice restaurant. Others who didn't have much money for their first wedding have very lavish ceremonies and parties afterwards.

Even if you want a big and expensive celebration, there are still **a few things you should avoid:**

- Don't have attendants. If you have children, you can give them a special role in the ceremony, but there is no need to designate them as bridesmaids or groomsmen. You may wish to invite your original bridal party and recognize them during the ceremony.
- Don't register for gifts. This is not the time to upgrade the china. Wedding gifts are to help a newly-married couple set up their household together.
- Don't throw bachelor or bachelorette parties. This is an obvious one – you aren't bachelors or bachelorettes!

Who Should Lead the Vow Renewal?

Since presumably you have already done the legal marriage, this ceremony will not be legally binding. Therefore, you can ask a judge or clergy member to officiate, but you can also ask a friend or an adult child to lead the ceremony. For a simple vow renewal, you don't necessarily need an officiant at all.

Vow Renewal Invitation Wording

**If you are hosting it yourself:**

The honor of your presence
is requested at
the reaffirmation of the wedding vows of
Sharon and Martin Jones
Saturday, March 25 etc.

Or

Please join us
as we renew our wedding vows and celebrate 25 years together
Sharon and Martin Jones
Saturday, March 25 etc.

**If your children are hosting it:**

The children of
Sharon and Martin Jones
Request the honor of your presence
at the vow renewal ceremony of their parents
etc.

**Wedding Vows at a Vow Renewal Ceremony**

You’ll probably want to say something a little different than first-time brides and grooms would. Many people write their own vows, but you might need some inspiration to get you started. [Click here to read vow samples for a vow renewal ceremony]

**Sample Vows for a Vow Renewal Ceremony**

**Finding The Right Words to Say at Your Vow Renewal**

Renewing your wedding vows? Congratulations! Since you may have chosen a vow renewal for a variety of reasons, there are a wide variety of words you can say. Many people write their own vows, emphasizing the reasons that they have chosen to "do it all over again." Here are some sample vows that you can personalize:

**Renewing Your Wedding Vows for an Anniversary**

(spouse's name), 25 years ago, I pledged my love and commitment to you, but it seems like only yesterday. I promised to love you, honor you, comfort and keep you. I pledge to be by your side in sickness and in health, in times of want, and times of plenty, for better or worse, for the rest of our lives. We have had all of those things, and you have been by my side as we created a family, a home, and a life together.

Today, at the beginning of our 26th year as husband and wife, in the presence of God, and our family and friends, I renew my vows to you, pledging my eternal love for you, and eagerly awaiting what life may bring us.

**Renewing Your Wedding Vows After an Infidelity, Illness or other Stressful Time**

On our wedding day, I pledged many things to you, including my faithfulness. With great sorrow and regret, I acknowledge that I broke that vow but I realize now the enormity of my mistake. Others come and go, but you are the constant in my life whom I will always love. I believe in this marriage more than ever, and I reaffirm my love and commitment to you.

On our wedding day, I pledged to love you in sickness and in health, and for better or worse. The past year has tested those vows, but our enduring love for one another has prevailed. I come here today to make a fresh start, to renew our vows of love, honor, and fidelity, and to reaffirm my love for you.

6 years ago, I promised to love you for as long as we both should live. I never imagined that I would face losing you so soon, or the depths of despair I would feel at that prospect. Today, we are on the other side of the mountain, and I am so ecstatic that I get to continue life's journey by your side. Once again, I promise to love you, honor you and keep you, for better or worse, in sickness and in health, for as long as we both shall live.

**Vow Renewal After a Private Wedding or Small Wedding**

With great joy I pledged my love and commitment to you on our wedding day. But a loving relationship does not exist in a vacuum. Our family and friends first showed us how to love, helped us grow, and
supported us when we found each other. I hope they will continue to love and support us as we love and support them. Therefore, I am delighted today, in the presence of these witnesses, to reaffirm my commitment to you, and once again, to promise to love you, honor you, and comfort you, in sickness and in health, for richer, for poorer, for better and for worse, as long as we both shall live.

**Getting a Church Blessing**

Typically the words you will say at a vow renewal are the same words you would say at any type of wedding. The officiant may make remarks about renewal, and any songs or readings may speak specially of lasting love or rebirth. Speak with your officiant about what is appropriate in your religion.

[http://weddings.about.com/od/yourweddingceremony/a/vowrenewsamples.htm](http://weddings.about.com/od/yourweddingceremony/a/vowrenewsamples.htm)
Vow Renewal - What is a Vow Renewal?

A vow renewal is a ceremony where a couple publically re-commits to their relationship by expressing their enduring love for one another. A sentimental rather than an official legal event, a vow renewal is a way for a couple to commemorate an important milestone, such as a major wedding anniversary or important personal milestone.

**Vow Renewal on Vacation**

If you want a romantic place for your vow renewal, consider a tropical destination. More and more resorts that host weddings are also offering their services to couples who want to plan a vow renewal. Much like couples planning a destination wedding, those having a vow renewal can avail themselves of the services of a resort’s wedding planner. She can organize everything from the officiant to the flowers, the keepsakes to the videography. Like a destination wedding, you can choose to invite your closest friends and family to witness your vow renewal -- or keep the event intensely private.

**Do It Your Way**

Couples who marry young often have a wedding heavily influenced by their parents. In a vow renewal, you can have the ceremony you always wanted. Since you'll be paying for it, this time you're free to do it your way. Whether that means wearing matching Hawaiian shirts on a beach at sunset or reaffirming your love in a local church or synagogue, your vow renewal is an opportunity to imprint the event with your personal taste, creativity, and experience.

**Is it Legal?**

Since you are already married and in possession of a wedding license, your vow renewal does not require any additional paperwork and the ceremony need not be officiated by a recognized authority. While many priests, ministers, and rabbis are glad to preside over this type of happy event, you can also have a judge, notary public, relative, or close friend do the honors.

**Vow Renewal Considerations**

- When do we want to renew our vows?
- What kind of budget can we afford for a vow renewal?
- Where do we want to have our vow renewal: home or away?
- Who should officiate at our vow renewal?
- Do we want to write and recite our own vows or use existing vows?
- Who do we want to invite to our vow renewal? Will we need invitations?
- Should we plan or having our children participate?
- Do we want to record our vow renewal in photographs or on video?
- Do we want to re-use our wedding rings or have new ones made?
- Do we want to exchange gifts to commemorate this day?
- What should we wear at our vow renewal?
- Do we want particular music played at our vow renewal?
- Should we have our vow renewal catered, or will cake and champagne suffice?
- Do we want to include any special friends or memories from our wedding in our vow renewal?
WHAT DOES THE CEREMONY CONTAIN?

The Renewal of Marriage Vows Ceremony has a range of sections available with choices to make within those sections, helping you to create your own Ceremony.

CAN WE ORGANISE A CEREMONY AT SHORT NOTICE?

Usually the answer to this is yes, but is dependent on the availability of the venue and the Celebrant.

WE ARE GETTING MARRIED ABROAD, CAN WE HOLD A CEREMONY IN THE UK WHEN WE RETURN?

Yes, this is a perfect ceremony to bring family and friends together to share your celebration in the UK.

IS THERE A CERTIFICATE?

Yes, a souvenir Certificate is signed during the ceremony by the couple and two witnesses.

![Ceremony Options](image)

HOW LONG IS THE CEREMONY?

A Renewal of Vows Ceremony is normally from between 15 minutes up to 30 minutes, depending on the number of options included in the ceremony and the number of readings chosen.

Can another couple renew their marriage vows at the same ceremony?

Just as every couple is unique, every Ceremony is unique; it is moulded by the couple and with their special relationship in mind so that they can celebrate their own personal commitments to one another. Because each Ceremony is so unique, one Ceremony could
not reflect more than one couple, so unfortunately the answer is no.

Other family and friends can hold their own unique Ceremony at the same venue, on the same day but not at the same time.

WHERE CAN CEREMONIES BE HELD?

Almost anywhere!
You can hold your ceremony in a village hall, hotel, castle, on a boat or even in your own home if suitable.

CAN WE HOLD OUR CEREMONY AT HOME?

Yes you can hold your ceremony at home, there is an additional fee of £30 (inc.vat) as we have to first ensure that your home meets the required Health and Safety policy standards.

Take a look at our 'Guidelines for Ceremonies at Home' policy, this will give you an idea of the sort of things we will check and you need to consider.

I HAVE BEEN MARRIED BEFORE, CAN I STILL HAVE A CEREMONY?

Yes, there is no problem with this as long as you are now legally married to the partner you are holding the ceremony with and free to renew your vows.

HOW MUCH DOES A CEREMONY COST?

In areas where our Celebrants officiate at ceremonies, the fee is £168 – £198 (inc. vat).

If you hold your ceremony at home, there is an additional fee of £30 (inc. vat) as your Celebrant is required to visit you at home beforehand to comply with Heath and Safety requirements.

In areas where we work alongside Local Authorities, the cost of the ceremony varies according to the area, day and time of the actual ceremony, this is because Local Authorities set their own individual fees for their region.

http://www.civilceremonies.co.uk/rc2.htm
Renewal of Vows and Commitment Ceremonies

Big anniversary coming up? Thinking of renewing your vows Las Vegas style?

Or if you'd just like to make your feelings known without any legal formalities, we also perform commitment ceremonies.

The Viva Las Vegas Wedding Chapels offers more choices for fun and romantic vow renewals and commitment ceremonies than any other on the fabulous Las Vegas Strip.

You may choose to have Elvis remarry you in our thrilling Elvis Blue Hawaii wedding, with tropical sets, theatrical lighting and fog effects, including hula dancers and Elvis serenading you LIVE with three of his most famous hits.

We also offer wedding vow renewal and commitment ceremony packages in a wide variety of themes such as the Camelot, the Egyptian, or even the Austin Powers 60's wedding package. Most packages include video, photography, flowers, super-stretch limousine service. Family and friends back home can watch live on the Internet via our in-chapel web cam, or you may have the whole event burned to a CD for later viewing.

We specialize in the most romantic traditional marriage vow renewals or commitment ceremonies, in case you are looking to do something a bit more sedate. Our gorgeous mission-style wedding chapel was voted Best of Las Vegas 2000 & 2003 by the local Las Vegas Review Journal newspaper.

Surprise renewals are popular with us, and what more memorable way to stun your folks who are celebrating their 40th or 50th anniversary? We can make all the arrangements for you! Take a look through our colorful and imaginative offerings---there is certain to be the perfect wedding renewal ceremony for you!

Book any themed wedding ceremony and you will receive $50.00 off the price of the wedding package. Plus, a free wedding archive a $75.00 Value! This special can not be used with our free rooms offers or combined with any additional discounts.

What our customers have to say!

I think the website drew me in, but the packages hooked me! I booked our Wedding Vow Renewal for my wife's birthday present and, to be honest, it couldn't have been much easier. I'd kept it a secret, telling Emma it was a meal we were going out for. She had no idea until she saw the limo! Our driver was great, courteous and fun, the limo was really nice, talk about travelling in style.
The chapel is really nice inside and out, the staff are about as polite as you get and then there was Elvis. Incredible. And also very funny. His singing was top notch, he even impressed my mother-in-law, so it must be good. Then the proofs of the photos came and the fun came back again.

We had the time of our lives on this holiday to Las Vegas but the crowning glory was the time spent on that day in November at Viva Las Vegas Wedding Chapel.

Quick Tip: Get married here and then that evening watch the fountains at the Bellagio and you will not have a more romantic day.

Thanks so much, John Tinker

We just wanted to tell you how much we enjoyed our 20 year vow renewal at the Viva Las Vegas Chapel. Everyone was very friendly and made us feel very comfortable and relaxed. It was everything we hoped it would be. Elvis was absolutely wonderful. Everyone in our party commented on what a great job he did and what a voice! Very professional.

Thanks again, The Paige's Tampa Bay, Florida

My name is Jim Scott.

My wife Stephanie and I celebrated our 20th anniversary on the 8th of this month by renewing our vows. The whole Vegas trip, including our Blue Hawaii ceremony was a surprise from me to my wife. I just wanted to write you and thank you and your staff for the excellent job they did. Everyone from the limo driver to the front desk were all very friendly and genuinely nice people to work with. The performance was excellent. Elvis was great, and until I saw the video I had no idea what a superb job the hula girls did. I had not realized that they performed several choreographed routines. For some odd reason, I was paying attention to my wife, instead of 2 lovely women dancing in grass skirts. So please extend my apologies, and thank them along with the King for the excellent evening. My wife thoroughly loved it, and my brownie point score shot through the roof thanks to you guys.

Jim

Thank you so much for making our vow renewal ceremony an experience we will always remember. Elvis was warm, fun, and the new jumpsuit was pure Vegas!

The video Fernando made really captured the moment and we look forward to receiving the photos. The limo was on time and clean and our driver, Scott was courteous and shared stories of his wife's love of Elvis. The event was much more than we expected. Thanks for a great surprise!

Kevin & Terri Mann
Camas, WA
Renewing your wedding vows should be a truly joyous occasion. After all, if you have been married for 25, 30, 50 years it is a truly amazing accomplishment - an accomplishment that you should celebrate! Even if you have been through some rough times, you have survived them together and it is a happy thing to rededicate your lives and love to one another in a vow renewal ceremony.

So, now that you know you are have a wedding vow renewal ceremony, what are you going to say? Well, maybe you want to say the same vows you did originally? Or, maybe this is your chance to really express how you feel about the love of your life in front of the people who are most important to you both.

The following is a vow renewal template that you can print out and complete as a couple to help you to think about your past years together and where you are going in your future. Just answer the questions together or separately, write down your thoughts, and then begin writing your renewal vows from there.

Here are some example renewal vows:

"My dearest ___, it was 25 years ago that we first pledged our commitment to one another, but it seems like just yesterday that I was standing across from my beautiful bride/handsome groom. We have been through a lot together - laughter and tears, joy and sorrow - and through all those times, I can honestly say, I loved you every step of the way. Today, I want to renew those vows and again pledge my love and life to you. I promise to be there for you in sickness and health, in middle and old age, in good and bad hair days. Whether you feel thin, fat, beautiful, ugly, fit and trim, or out of shape I will always think that you are perfect - perfect for me. I am here to be your supporter, your confidant, and your best friend. You are my (nickname or other). I have been blessed for the last 25 years and am thrilled that I get to spend the rest of my life with you. I love you."

"_______, in the past I have taken you for granted. I have put others before you. I have done things I am not proud of. And I have often been wrong. On the other hand, I have always loved you and stood beside you. I am here today to move forward with a renewed commitment to you, our love, and our lives together. I pledge that from this day forward you will be my number one priority. I promise to be there for you in all that life brings our way. It is because of you that I am here today and I vow to give you all that I am and all that I have for the rest of our lives together. This is my solemn promise."
Dearly Beloved, we are gathered here today to witness before family and friends the exchange of solemn vows between (first and last name) and (first name) "WHO LOVES YA, BABY?" (last name).

If there be any suspicious minds present in the audience doncha think it's time to speak now or never - their love won't wait.

(First and last name), repeat after me:

   It only took one night to get stuck on you,  
   and now my wish came true, you big hunka hunka burnin' love!  
   I thought you were nothin' but a hound dog, cryin' all the time,  
   but now I know you're my teddy bear  
   'cause tigers play too rough and lions ain't the kind you love enough.  
   So kiss me quick and love me tender for I can't help falling in love with you.

(First name) "WHO LOVES YA, BABY?" (last name), repeat after me:

   It took a hard headed woman to make me king of the whole wide world.  
   I thought you were the devil in disguise but you turned out to be my puppet on a string.  
   I used to live in the hotel down the end of lonely street  
   but now it's viva las vegas 'cause I need your love tonight.

Please take this moment to exchange your gifts of love.  
By the powers vested in me I now re-pronounce you "husband and femme" but remember, there is no return to sender. You may kiss your cousin. Please join me in welcoming Mr. AND Mrs. "WHO LOVES YA, BABY?" (last name). Folks, this has got me all shook up, so please love me tender.

Are you going to say the same vows to one another or are you each going to write different vows?

Writing Your Wedding Vows Together

1. If you are going to say the same vows to one another, it will be more meaningful if you write your vows together. Try the following:

(Click Here for the following questions in worksheet format for you to print out for you and your fiancé.)

   1. First, be certain to do this when you and your fiancé can be alone. You won't want others to disturb you, so ensure that you can have some privacy.  
   2. Each of you should grab a stack of paper and a pen or pencil.  
   3. Set a time limit for how long you are going work separately. Agree to rejoin each other in a half hour or so.  
   4. Go to separate rooms. Make sure you are comfortable and not worried about being disturbed.
5. Write a letter to your fiancé telling them why you love them. Do not make this short and sweet. Instead, elaborate, go in-depth, and be creative.

6. Write 2-3 of your favorite times together - the times when you laughed so hard you cried, or when s/he was there for you, or an inside joke, or something that happened long ago that you haven't thought about it in a long time.

7. Write down the scriptures, quotes, and songs that you are using at your wedding. Reflect on these and write what they mean to you or the most important part of them.

8. Now, get back together and either switch papers, or take turns reading your letters and stories to one another.

9. When you are finished crying and hugging and smiling, talk about what you thought were the best parts of each of your letters and stories. Are there a few things you can pick out that you could say as vows? To help you out, most traditional vows go something like this:

   o "In the name of God, I, Name take you, Name to be my wife/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, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow."

   Here is an example of how you could write your vows with a "From This Moment" theme:

   o "From this moment, I, Name, take you, Name, as my best friend for life. I pledge to honor, encourage, and support you through our walk together. When our way becomes difficult, I promise to stand by you and uplift you, so that through our union we can accomplish more than we could alone. I promise to work at our love and always make you a priority in my life. With every beat of my heart, I will love you. This is my solemn vow."

   o If you need more examples, I recently read a 161-page Wedding Vow Toolkit that has a lot of examples and good suggestions to get you going. It could be very helpful to you if you are interested in more examples, and as of this writing, it is for sale for $17.

10. Once you have written your vows, you will most likely want to talk with your Officiant about them. S/he may want to approve them and/or offer you some more suggestions.

**As a side note:** After your wedding, if your vows were especially meaningful to you, type them up, print them on nice paper, and frame them to hang in your house. This way, you will never forget them and you will always be reminded of how special and sacred they are to your marriage.

**Writing Your Wedding Vows Separately**

If you are writing your vows individually try the following:
1. Get together with your fiancé and first discuss general rules for your vows. For example, about how long they should be (ex. 5 sentences), that they should use the words "I love you" or "You are my best friend", etc. in them. You don’t want one of you to write a book of vows while the other just says a few simple things, so make sure to discuss this beforehand.

2. When you get the chance to be alone, reminisce about how you met, what you felt when you realized you were in love, and how you felt when you decided to get married. Write down descriptive words for these feelings. For example "love", "forever", "journey", etc.

3. Think about your relationship. Has there been a theme to your relationship, a favorite song, words you enjoy saying to one another? Write these down.

4. Review how traditional vows are said.

   For example:

   o "In the name of God, I, Name take you, Name to be my wife/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, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow."

5. Now think about how you can bring these things together. Think about what you like about the traditional vows and what you don't like. For the parts you don't like, how could you change them to your own words, to make them better?

6. Start writing your vows!

7. If you are still having trouble, try using our Vow Writing Worksheet and apply it to each of your individually. Do not practice your vows together unless you don't mind that they won't be a surprise.

8. Once you have written your vows, you will most likely want to talk with your Officiant about them. S/he may want to approve them and/or offer you some more suggestions.

9. If you need additional assistance writing your vows, I recently read a 161-page Wedding Vow Toolkit that has a lot of examples and good suggestions to get you going. It could be very helpful to you if you are interested in more examples, and as of this writing, it is for sale for $17.

10. As a side note: After your wedding, if your vows were especially meaningful to you, type both of them up, print them on nice paper, and frame them to hang in your house. This way, you will never forget them and you will always be reminded of how special and sacred they are to your marriage.

by Kelly Kons
http://www.bweddd.com/truecompanions/
Sample Wedding Vows

Sample Wedding Vows - Starters

- I, ______, choose you, ______, as my best friend for life.
- I, ______, choose you, ______, to embark upon this great journey of marriage with me.
- I, ______, take you, ______, as my soulmate and companion.
- I, ______, take you, ______, to be my wife, my partner, my friend, my confidant, my soulmate.

Sample Wedding Vows - Middle of your vows

- Together, we can accomplish anything.
- Together, we will be better than we could be alone.
- Together, we will share our love with the world.
- Together, our love will grow into a bond too strong to break.

- Our love may be like the ebb and tide of the ocean, but it will always flow.
- Through the good and bad, I want you to always know that I will be by your side.
- I will be there for you in the ups and downs of life.

I pledge my all to you.

Sample Wedding Vows - Pledges

- In sickness, I will nurse you back to health. In health, I will encourage you on your path. In sadness, I will help you to remember. In happiness, I will be there make to memories with you. In poverty, I will do all that I can to make our love rich. And in wealth, I will never let our love grow poor.

- When you need someone to encourage you, I want it to be me. When you need a helping hand, I want it to be mine. When you long for someone to smile at, turn to me. When you have something to share, share it with me.

- Though life may not always be as perfect as it is at this moment, I vow to always keep my love as pure as it is today. I promise to be there for you in your laughter and your tears, in your sickness and your health, in your comfort and your fears, in your poverty and your wealth. I know that our love is heaven sent, and I promise to be there for you for all your life, come what may.

We have already been through a lot together, and I believe that God has been preparing us for this moment and for our future together. I promise to keep the good memories alive, and to let the bad ones die. I vow not to let the sun go down on our anger, and to treat each morning as a new day to love you, the gift I have been given. I will not forsake you or these vows that we have made, but rather strive to show you my love for the rest of our lives. This is my promise to you.
Sample Wedding Vows - Theme Vows

"Amazed"
I, ______, take you, ______, as my best friend for life. I am so in love with you that I want to promise to stand beside you through thick and thin, through good and bad, through joy and sorrow. I want to spend the rest of my life hearing your thoughts and seeing your dreams. I promise to do my best to make our lives better and better from this day on because I am so amazed by you. This is my solemn vow.

"From This Moment"
From this moment, I, Name, take you, Name, as my best friend for life. I pledge to honor, encourage, and support you through our walk together. When our way becomes difficult, I promise to stand by you and uplift you, so that through our union we can accomplish more than we could alone. I promise to work at our love and always make you a priority in my life. With every beat of my heart, I will love you. This is my solemn vow.

"1 Corinthians 13"
I, ______, take you, ______, as the love of my life. I vow to be patient with you and the circumstances in our lives. I vow to be kind to all people we come across. I vow not to be boastful of our love or about our accomplishments. I promise to be proud of you, but not proud in love for though I will strive for perfection, I know I can never reach it. I promise not to be quick to anger, but to think before I speak and act. I vow not to keep a record of wrongs, but to always keep the happy memories alive. Through God, our love will never fail.

"Could Not Ask for More"
I, ______, choose you, ______, as my everything. I vow to love you through sickness and health, through the good and the bad, through richer and poorer. You are everything I need, and at this moment I know that all my prayers have been answered and that all of my dreams have come true. This is the moment I have waited my whole life for. I promise to give you my all and I know that I could not ask for more from you. I love you and always will. This is my solemn vow.

http://www.brilliantweddingpages.com/couples/sample_vows.asp
Wedding Ceremonies - Renewal of Vows

The Renewal of Vows is also known as a Re-Affirmation Ceremony. There may be a considerable history to the relationship by the time a renewal of vows is decided upon. There may be even children of the partnership.

In crafting such a ceremony it can be very important to reflect the journey that the couple have been on since they met and committed to one another. You can also include your hopes for the future as a couple or as a family.

In making their vows some couples choose to re-affirm their original vows. Others decide to re-write their vows in celebration of who they are as a couple at present, and who they wish to be in the future.

A Renewal of Vows or Re-Affirmation Ceremony can also include a commemorative certificate. This can be signed by two witnesses at the event. Unlike legal marriage, people of any age even children could be the signatories at this ceremony.

A Renewal of Vows ceremony can be formatted similarly to a wedding ceremony or can have a unique structure as chosen by the couple.

You may wish to renew your vows as a celebration of the evolution of your relationship, or as a ceremony for people who were unable to attend your wedding. Whatever the reason, vow renewal ceremonies are a marvellous way to deepen your commitment to one another.


Wedding Vows Renewal
Hallmark’s wedding vows renewal card is to congratulate or offer good wishes to a married couple who are renewing their wedding vows in a ceremony, whether informal or more elaborate. The card allows family and friends to show support, recognize the strength of the relationship, and commemorate a once-in-a-lifetime moment, according to Jennifer Black, an associate product manager at Hallmark.

Created because of consumer interest in wedding vows renewal ceremonies, the card is available at Hallmark Gold Crown® stores nationwide. A Hallmark wedding vows renewal card was first offered in 2001, reflecting the trend in vow renewal ceremonies.

"With about half of all marriages ending in divorce, for those marriages that endure, a renewal of vows can be significant,” says Hallmark trend expert Marita Wesely-Clough, a nationally recognized trendspotter.

"As marriage progresses through stages – newlywed, having babies, married with children, empty-nesting, and retirement – as people begin to recognize more the significance of each stage, the milestones represented by each stage, and the value of an enduring relationship, we could be seeing more people wanting to renew their vows," Wesely-Clough continues.

"Celebrating traditions is more important today than ever before. As the world continues to change so dramatically, rites of passage and events that mark shifts from one place in life to another become even more important. It's a way to stay grounded in tradition as family, friends and community recognize and help celebrate the strength of a marriage.

"Since 9/11, people are more acutely aware that life is transitory, a realization that makes it even more important to celebrate family and personal milestones. In part, it is the particular kind of gratitude inherent in such occasions that motivates people to celebrate and recognize the fortunate couple. To renew a vow carries with it an element of hopefulness, the intention to carry on, a promise to be 'present' in the relationship."

http://pressroom.hallmark.com/wedding_vows_renewal.html

Cover: As You Renew Your Vows. How beautiful the love that renews itself again and again through the years.

Inside: Today is a day for looking back on all the special moments you've shared... A day for renewing the love that first brought you together... A day for wishing you all the special joys you so deserve.

Related Links:
• Wedding Trends and Facts
• Wedding Anniversary Celebrations
• Marking Coming-of-Age Milestones
RENEWAL OF VOWS

There are times when a married couple may feel it is appropriate to express and renew their love and commitment. Such ceremonies are full of warmth and feeling.

Re-affirmation or renewal of vows ceremonies are also suitable for married couples, who, after separation, are seriously re-united. Some have also felt the need for such a ceremony, when their original wedding ceremony, for one reason or another, was meaningless to them. The third and most common reason is to re-affirm the marriage on the occasion of an anniversary.

These ceremonies are arranged exactly the same as marriage ceremonies. There is one point of differentiation, however, which is extremely important. Each introduction must be unique. It is best for the couple to spend an hour or two with the celebrant discussing the ceremony and why they wish to have it. The celebrant should then write the introduction and check it back with the parties concerned to see if it expresses their views accurately. If this is not done the ceremony, at this state of its development, may not be successful. It may also be necessary to write personal vows relevant to the couples changed circumstances and hopes for the future.

There are no legal requirements for a Renewal of Vows so no birth or marriage certificates are required.


RENEWAL OF VOWS - SAMPLE CEREMONY

Peter and Michelle

Today you have been married for 25 years - your silver celebration. Your main responsibility to bring up your children is now over and you have reached the stage in your relationship where you are rebuilding your life as a couple. This evening when you renew your marriage vows you can look forward with confidence to a new era in your life.

In the coming decades you will be able to concentrate on building your love for each other free from the tensions and worries involved in establishing yourselves financially and nurturing a growing family. Your children are here tonight to give their blessing for your new life and to thank you for all your generosity, love and support over the last twenty three years.

Tonight is a night when you reassure each other. When you are expressing to each other deep loyalty and loving trust as the basis of your marriage relationship.

Both of you believe in marriage - in the fullness of the husband and wife relationship and you know that a deep bond unites you both. It must do so because of what you have been through together - all the stresses and tensions of the past have not weakened your love but have only made you more determined to stick by each other. This relationship is and must be very deep.

Tonight's re-commitment should encourage you both to be more dedicated to each other so that you can look forward to a settled and enjoyable future.
Vows

Twenty five years ago, I, Peter took you, Michelle to be my lawful wife, to have and to hold, from that day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health. This day I re-affirm that vow.

Twenty five years ago, I Michelle took you, Peter to be my lawful husband, to have and to hold, from that day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health. This day I re-affirm that vow.

RENEWAL OF VOWS CEREMONIES

Q - What is a Renewal of Vows Ceremony?
A - This Ceremony is for any married couples that wish to celebrate renewing their marriage vows in a unique and personal Ceremony. Often the Ceremony is associated with a special wedding anniversary, such as the 10th, 20th, 40th etc, but the Ceremony is just as appropriate for couples at any stage in their marriage. Many couples who get married abroad choose to renew their marriage vows in a special event held for family and friends on their return.

Q - Who can have the Ceremony?
A - Any married couple of any age and married for any length of time, can arrange a Renewal of Marriage Vows Ceremony. It does not matter if you do not live in the area where you want your Ceremony.

Q - What happens at the Ceremony?
A - The Renewal of Marriage Vows Ceremony may contain the following sections: Introduction and Welcome; Acknowledgment of any Children of the Marriage; Reading; Renewal of Vows; Rededication of Ring(s); Giving of New Ring(s) or Gift(s); Words from previous Wedding Guest; (Best Man, Bridesmaid or Bride’s father,) Further Readings; Signing of Certificate; Witnesses and Closing Words.

Q - Does the Ceremony have any legal status?
A - The Ceremony has no legal status, and is not legally binding on those who participate.

Q - How long does the Ceremony last?
A - The Ceremony usually lasts about 15 minutes but can be up to 30 minutes if more readings and other options are included.

Q - Where can the Ceremony take place?
A - The Ceremony can take place in any Registration Office or at any of our Approved Venues.

Renewal of Wedding Vows

The ceremony is for any legally married couple who wish to celebrate renewing their marriage vows in a unique and personal ceremony.

Often these ceremonies are associated with a special wedding anniversary, such as the first, tenth, twenty-fifth, fortieth etc but the ceremony is just as appropriate for couples at any stage of marriage and is sometimes particularly relevant to those who have been through a period which put a strain on their relationship, but who wish to celebrate their renewed commitment to each other.

Who are they for?

Any legally married couple of any age and married for any length of time, can arrange a renewal of marriage vows ceremony. It does not matter if you do not live in the area where you want your ceremony. Note that you need to produce your marriage certificate when booking your ceremony.

How to get the best out of your ceremony

- Invitations are normally sent out at least 4-6 weeks in advance
- Flowers; bouquets, corsages or buttonholes
- If you decide to give new rings during the ceremony, do purchase and fit well in advance as alterations can take some time

Consider photographs or a video of the ceremony as a lasting memento

Gifts. It is a good idea to specify arrangements for gifts on the invitations

Where to hold the ceremony

The person giving you this booklet will also have details of the venues available in your area. These may be either Council owned venues or venues such as hotels that have been approved as suitable venues. All such venues will conform to minimum health and safety regulations. Some rooms that are in Register Offices may be used for ceremonies but are designated as Local Authority venues during the ceremony.

Choosing your ceremony

The ceremony is put together by you! We offer a wide range of choices so no two renewal of vows ceremonies are exactly the same.

A ‘Celebrant’ will conduct your ceremony and they are trained and experienced in conducting many different ceremonies so do ask their advice on anything you are unsure about.

As you go through the choices and select what you want the ceremony to contain, you will be creating a unique event that you and all your guests will remember. Take time to consider which options are appropriate and have meaning for you both.

Special people in your lives can take part in your ceremony, your children, guests who were at the wedding and any friends and relatives. You will also need to ask two people to witness the signing of the Certificate of the event.
Frequently asked Questions

**What does the ceremony contain?**

Renewal of Marriage Vows Ceremonies can contain the following sections: Introduction and Welcome; Acknowledgement of any children of the marriage; Reading; Renewal of Vows; Rededication of ring(s); Giving of new ring(s) or gift(s); Words from previous wedding guest (often Best Man, Bridesmaid or Bride’s father); Further reading; Signing of Certificate; Witnesses and Closing Words.

**What other ceremonies are available?**

Couples who wish to have a religious ceremony should contact their local church or religious community. The British Humanist Association also arrange ceremonies and can be contacted on 202 7430 0908.

**Is there a Certificate?**

A souvenir Certificate is signed during the ceremony by the couple and two witnesses.

**How long will the ceremony last?**

Normally approximately 15 minutes but up to 30 minutes if more readings and options are chosen.

**I have been married before, can I still have a ceremony?**

Yes, as long as you are now legally married.

Kauai Wedding Vows and Vow Renewals

We offer a selection of wedding vows to suit your needs...

Marriage vow renewals are sacred and precious expressions of your commitment and dedication to each other. Based upon your spiritual/religious beliefs and cultural background, we take the time to create the appropriate tone and theme that will reflect the particular mood, sensitivity and inspiration you wish to express in your vows to each other in order to reaffirm your love for each other. Each wedding vow renewal ceremony is personalized to fulfill your vision of a dream wedding.

### Traditional

A traditional-style vow renewal is a great way to express your reaffirmed love for someone. Let him or her know how much you treasure their companionship.

### Romantic

Go the romantic way and hold back nothing. Rainbow Weddings offers the most romantic destinations on Earth to host your vow renewal ceremony.
Casual and Fun

If tradition and stuffy clothing are not your style, then our casual and fun vow renewal ceremony is perfect for you. Come as you are and re-express your love and devotion for her or him.

Non-Denominational

Even if your religious convictions don't fall into any particular denomination, Rainbow Weddings will tailor your vows and ceremony to meet your spiritual / religious needs, no matter what.

Exotic Locations

Host your marriage vow renewal in an exotic place that you will always remember so vividly. Many beautiful and breath-taking locations are available to make that day very special.

Alternative

Vows of Commitment for Gay and Lesbian Couples. We welcome and honor the opportunity to participate in your coming together and assist you in creating your dream ceremony on this auspicious day.

It’s Never Too Early to Renew Your Wedding Vows
By Chris Simeral
When you think about couples who renew their wedding vows, chances are you're not picturing anyone under the age of 50. But the truth is that it's never too early to renew your vows - especially if you didn't get to do exactly what you wanted the first time around. I'm talking about those couples that really wanted to write their own vows, but that got talked out of doing it by family, friends (or even themselves) for a whole host of reasons that "sounded good" at the time.

Does This Sound Like You?
Rick and Holly were recently married, and as much as their day was truly memorable, there was one aspect that really bothered them -- their wedding vows. Like many modern-day engaged couples, they wished to write their own vows to make their exchange of love more romantic and personal. However, they were talked out of the idea by Holly's mother and her maid of honor, Karen.

Holly's mother believed that writing their own wedding vows was going against tradition, which would be frowned upon by many of the guests attending the ceremony, while Karen felt that writing personal wedding vows was tacky and likely to be longwinded. Holly carefully considered the opinion of each woman, both of whom she respected and loved very much, as they had been wonderful and exceptionally helpful during the planning of her wedding. She discussed the situation with Rick and found out that he, too, was having mixed feelings about writing their own vows. It seemed his brother Jim and sister-in-law Deborah also expressed their distaste concerning the idea.

With a heavy sigh, both Rick and Holly decided that it would probably be best not write their own wedding vows. They tossed away brainstorming ideas, and although neither of them would admit it to the other, they were equally feeling miserable about abandoning their original plan to create their own vows.

Now, here they were, happily married, and yet feeling cheated out of the wedding they had always wanted. Why had they listened to others instead of their own hearts?

Why Not Renew Your Vows on Your Honeymoon? (Yes, Your Honeymoon!)
That is when Rick had a clever idea: what if they renewed their wedding vows on their honeymoon? Holly brightened at this thought, and after a moment of consideration it was settled. Both of them carefully composed personal thoughts that they wished to share with the other, and set the day when they would renew their vows.

Afterwards, Rick and Holly were able to ignore the regret they once felt, as they now had new memories born from the second chance of being able to express the everlasting words of love they had always wanted to share in the presence of others.

If you are one of the unfortunate victims who have listened to others and went with traditional wedding vows instead of your original plan of writing out your own, you can stop regretting and start renewing. That's right; you can have the wedding you originally wanted by simply renewing your wedding vows.

You will discover that renewing your wedding vows is not a difficult process, and could be even more romantic than the first time you were married. A renewal of vows is a beautiful decision, because it is like saying to your spouse, "I love you even more than the day we were married, and if I had the choice, I would marry you all over again because I can't imagine my life without you in it. You are the only one for me, and I want the whole world to know."

If this sounds like something you're interested in, try searching on the Internet for places that cater to "destination weddings." After all, you want this to be a special moment - just as special as the day you were originally married.

And in terms of getting down to the business of actually personalizing the words you're going to say, products like The Ultimate Wedding Vow Toolkit (which I created - more info at http://www.weddingvowtoolkit.com) will walk you through the process step by step. Good luck ... and this time, don't let anyone talk you out of what you truly want to do!
Renewal of Vows

The most common reason is to reaffirm the marriage on the occasion of an anniversary. Renewal of vows is often used for couples who were obliged to marry quickly, perhaps because marriage was a condition of obtaining a USA work permit or because of an imminent military posting. At a more convenient and propitious time a complete ceremony, mirroring the original ceremony, can be held. It is also suitable for married couples, who, after separation, are reunited. Some also feel the need for such a ceremony when their original wedding ceremony, for one reason or another, was meaningless to them (they may have been too young, had no say in the ceremony, or cannot remember any of it). Whatever the circumstances in my experience this is a very emotional and meaningful ceremony, more so, perhaps, than the original ceremony. They are arranged in much the same way as a traditional marriage ceremony. It is best for the couple to spend an hour or two together discussing the ceremony and why they wish to have it. The couple then draft the introduction so it expresses their feelings. All the elements of the traditional marriage ceremony are suitable for renewal of vows. It must be clear that this ceremony is a renewal, not a marriage. It is illegal to pretend to officiate at a marriage ceremony when, in fact, it is not such a ceremony.

EXAMPLE

Geoff & Margaret, today is your twenty-fifth wedding anniversary — your silver celebration. Your main responsibility to bring up your children is now over, and tonight, when you renew and reaffirm your marriage vows to each other, you can happily look back on the achievement of raising a family; at the same time you can look forward to a new era in your life.

It will be a time, we hope, when you can concentrate on developing your love for each other, freer than you have been from the tensions and hassles that characterise the struggle to become established in life and in nurturing a growing family.
Tonight is a night when you reassure each other, and expressing deep loyalty and loving trust as the basis of your marriage relationship.

Both of you believe in marriage — in the fullness of the husband and wife relationship — and you know that a deep bond unites you both. It must do so because of what you have been through together; all the stresses and tensions of the past have not weakened your love, but have only made you more determined to stick by each other. This relationship is, and must be, very deep. As the poet, contemplating and comparing the rush of life to the plunge of the great waterfalls, says: ‘Deep calls to deep in the roar of your cataracts’.

Your relationship, I know, is as important to you as life itself. Tonight’s recommitment should encourage you both to be more dedicated to each other so that you can look forward to a settled and enjoyable future. (A selection of readings and symbolic acts follows.)

Geoff: Twenty-five years ago, I, Geoff, took you, Margaret, to be my lawful wife, to have and to hold, from that day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health. This day I reaffirm that vow.

Margaret: Twenty-five years ago, I, Margaret, took you, Geoff, to be my lawful husband, to have and to hold from that day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health. This day I reaffirm that vow.

Geoff:

Margaret With this ring
I reaffirm that we are wed,
Take and wear it
As a pledge of my love
And as a symbol
Of all we have shared
And all that we shall share.

Wife to repeat for husband, if wished.

Readings chosen by the couple are then read. (Wedding readings are easily adapted for this ceremony.)

Celebrant: Ladies and Gentlemen, Geoff and Margaret have declared before me and before all of you, their relatives and friends, that they will continue to live together in marriage. They have made special promises to each other. They have
symbolised it by joining hands, taking vows and by Geoff giving Margaret a ring.

I therefore call upon all present here today to be fellow-witnesses with me to this reaffirmation. I declare that they have been, and will remain, husband and wife.