

Wedding Vows
Novio and Novia Lastname
Fecha, 2007
Lugar, Costa Rica

We are gathered here today in the beautiful serene tropics of Costa Rica to unite **NOVIO** and **NOVIA** in marriage. This celebration is but an outward sign of an inward union of heart, mind and spirit. This is a celebration of the joining of two souls already attuned to each other. When such a true bond already exists between a man and a woman, it is fitting that an outer acknowledgment be made. We are here to bear witness to the entry into the closer relationship of husband and wife of these beloved friends who are about to become one in spirit.

NOVIO and **NOVIA** it is this day you take a giant step of courage and commitment to love, understand and grow. When a commitment this strong is made by two people, the force of that commitment, of that love, of that courage, reaches out and touches all of us around you, so that our lives are changed and we share a part of your love. Like a stone dropped in a still pond, the ripples of the love from this celebration extend and change the world we live in.

You are now taking into your care and keeping the happiness of the person in the entire world whom you love best. You are adding to your life not only the affection of each other, but also the companionship and blessing of a deep trust as well. You are once again agreeing to share strength, responsibilities and to share love.

In our long history we have never discovered a better way of life than sharing it together in love in a lasting and responsible way. This arrangement seems to meet our deepest human needs for love and companionship, for someone with whom we can share in an intimate and trusting way all the hopes and joys and dreams of life. But real love, **NOVIO** and **NOVIA**, is something beyond the warmth and glow, or the excitement and romance of being deeply in love. It is caring as much about the welfare and happiness of your life partner as well as your own. Real love is not total absorption into each other, it is looking outward in the same direction together. Love makes burdens lighter because you divide them. It makes joys more intense because you share them. It makes you stronger, so you can be involved with life in ways you dare not risk alone.

MANDATORY COSTA RICA FAMILY CODE ARTICLES

As a Costa Rican and a resident of this area, I appreciate that you have chosen this small piece of land from all the countries of the world as the place in which to celebrate this incredibly meaningful act. Matrimony is so important that Costa Rican Law recognizes this by giving special protection to this sacred institution. Thus the supreme law in our Political Constitution contains the higher rules which govern our society. For example, article 11 reads...

- Marriage is the essence of family, and its object is life together, cooperation, and mutual assistance.

And article 34 states...

- The spouses share responsibility and govern the family. Together they must regulate the matters of the home, provide an education for their children, and prepare their future. They should also respect each other, observe fidelity and help one another. They should live in the same home, unless reasons of convenience or health of either or their children, justify different residences.

NOVIO and **NOVIA** please face one another and take each other's hands.

NOVIO, do you take this woman to be your wedded wife? Do you promise before God and this company that you will love her, honor her, comfort and keep her in sickness and in health and that forsaking all others for her alone will you perform unto her all of the duties and respect that a husband graciously bestows upon his wife?

NOVIO: I do.

NOVIA, do you take this man to be your wedded husband? Do you promise before God and this company that you will love him, honor him, comfort and keep him in sickness and in health and that forsaking all others for him alone will you perform unto him all of the duties and respect that a wife graciously bestows upon her husband?

NOVIA: I do.

NOVIO: please repeat after me as you enter in the covenant of Marriage:

I, **NOVIO** take you **NOVIA** to be my wife/ I will cherish our friendship/ and love you today, tomorrow and forever/ I will trust you and honor you/ I will love you faithfully/ through the best and the worst/ what may come I will always be there/ I come into this union/letting go of my deepest fears/ and embracing all my faith/ and if I doubt/ I will remember this time/ and why we came together this day/ As I have given you my hands to hold/ so I give you my life to keep/ so help me God.

NOVIA: please repeat after me as you enter in the covenant of Marriage:

I, **NOVIA** take you **NOVIO** to be my husband/ I will cherish our friendship/ and love you today, tomorrow and forever/ I will trust you and honor you/ I will love you faithfully/ through the best and the worst/ what may come I will always be there/ I come into this union/letting go of my deepest fears/ and embracing all my faith/ and if I doubt/ I will remember this time/ and why we came together this day/. As I have given you my hands to hold/ so I give you my life to keep/ so help me God.

May I have the rings of Love, please?

NOVIO and **NOVIA**, as these Beautiful rings are designed without an ending, they speak of eternity. May the incorruptible substance of these rings represent a love glowing with increasing luster through the years. May God bless these which you give to each other as the sign of your eternal love, trust, and faithfulness.

NOVIO: place this ring on your wife and please repeat after me;

NOVIA, my love: With this ring, I thee wed, and say to the world "This is my wife, whom I cherish above all others. May our love continue to be everlasting and eternal".

NOVIA: place this ring on your Husband and please repeat after me:

NOVIO my love: With this ring, I thee wed, and say to the world "This is my husband, whom I cherish above all others. May our love continue to be everlasting and eternal".

According to the Costa Rican law please proceed to sign the official documents...

And now join me in prayer

Our hearts are filled with great happiness. **NOVIO** and **NOVIA** come before us pledging their lives and their hearts to one another. Grant that they may be ever, true and loving, living together in such a way as to never bring heartache into their marriage. Temper their hearts with kindness and help them to be sweethearts, helpmates, friends and

guides, and together, may they meet the cares and problems of life more bravely. Let them remember the value of each other as individuals, and never take each other for granted. And as time takes away their youthful charm, may they find contentment in the greater joys of rich companionship. May their home truly be a place where love and where harmony is ever present. May their love continue through life until it blends into the life eternal.

Now that you have joined yourselves in holy matrimony, may you strive always to meet this commitment with the same spirit you now exhibit. We all bear witness to this ceremony you have just performed, and you are now recognized as Husband and Wife. May God bless this union.

NOVIO you may kiss your wife.

I now present you Mr. And Mrs. **Lastname**