

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

We are gathered here today, on this joyous occasion, to unite **NOVIO** and **NOVIA** in marriage. This celebration is but the outward sign of an inward union of hearts, minds, and spirits. In marriage husband and wife are called to a new way of life. to live faithfully together in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health.

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 marriage 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.

Happiness in marriage is not something that just happens. A good marriage must be created. In the Art of Marriage: The little things are the big things. It is never being too old to hold hands. It is remembering

to say "I love you" at least once a day. It is never going to sleep angry. It is at no time taking the other for granted. The courtship should not end with the honeymoon, it should continue through all the years. It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives. It is standing together facing the world. It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family. It is doing things for each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice, but in the spirit of joy. It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways. It is not expecting the husband to wear a halo or the wife to have wings of an angel. It is not looking for perfection in each other. It is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding and a sense of humor. It is having the capacity to forgive and forget. It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow. It is finding room for the things of the spirit. It is a common search for the good and the beautiful. It is establishing a relationship in which the independence is equal, dependence is mutual, and the obligation is reciprocal. It is not only marrying the right partner, it is being the right partner."

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 objective 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.

With that said,

(Please, face each other and take each other's hands)

NOVIO, do you take **NOVIA** to be your lawfully wedded wife? Do you promise to love, honor, and protect her? Share the good times and achievements as well as the hard times and disappointments? Keep her in sickness and in sorrow and to be faithful to her, so long as you both shall live? If so, please say "I do"

NOVIA, do you take **NOVIO**, to be your lawfully wedded husband? Do you promise to love, honor, and protect him? Share the good times and achievements as well as the hard times and disappointments? Keep him in sickness and in sorrow and to be faithful to him so long as you both shall live? If so, please say "I do"

NOVIO, please repeat after me:

I **NOVIO** take you **NOVIA** to be my wedded wife/ to have and to hold/from this day forward/ for better or for worse/ for richer or for poorer/ in sickness and in health/ to love and to cherish/ until death do us part.

NOVIA, please repeat after me:

I **NOVIA** take you **NOVIO** / to be my wedded husband/ to have and to hold/from this day forward/ for better or for worse/ for richer or for poorer/ in sickness and in health/ to love and to cherish/ until death do us part.

And now, the rings please,

The wedding ring is the outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual bond which unites two loyal hearts in endless love.

NOVIO, please place the ring in **NOVIA**'s finger and repeat after me,
Receive this ring/ as a pledge and token/ of wedded love and faithfulness.

NOVIA, please respond,

I accept this ring/ in token of our constant faith and abiding love.

NOVIA please place the ring in **NOVIO**'s finger and repeat after me,
Receive this ring/ as a pledge and token/ of wedded love and
faithfulness.

NOVIO, please respond,

I accept this ring/ in token of our constant faith and abiding love."

(Lawyer introduces NOVIA and NOVIO as man and wife)

"By virtue of the Authority vested in me by the laws of the Republic of
Costa Rica and recognized by the United States of America, I now
pronounce you husband and wife. May God bless this union.
Congratulations. You May kiss the Bride".