

# Officiant's Guide

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2010–2011 Edition



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### Introduction

Since January 1, 1994, Québec citizens can obtain official civil status documents, i.e. attestations, certificates or copies of acts of birth, marriage, civil union and death, from the Directeur de l'état civil. The administrative structure of the Directeur de l'état civil, which is the purview of Services Québec, is headed by the registrar of civil status, a public officer whose mandate is conferred by the *Civil Code of Québec*. The registrar is the **sole** officer authorized to keep the register of civil status and publicize it by issuing authentic civil status documents (certificates, copies of acts, attestations).

The registrar of civil status is also responsible for keeping a register of persons authorized to solemnize marriages and civil unions and authorizing ministers of religion to solemnize marriages provided that they satisfy the requirements prescribed by law and are authorized by their religious society to solemnize marriages. The religious society to which the minister belongs must be recognized by the registrar of civil status for the purposes of solemnization of marriages.

The information contained in this guide is intended to help officiants comply with the rules and formalities relating to the solemnization of a marriage or civil union.

It is provided for information purposes only and has no legal value.



### 1. Are you allowed to solemnize a marriage or civil union?

You are allowed to solemnize a marriage or civil union if you satisfy one of the following conditions:

- You are a minister of religion authorized to solemnize marriages by a religious society recognized by the Directeur de l'état civil and are authorized to solemnize marriages in accordance with article 366 of the *Civil Code of Québec*.
- You are a clerk or deputy clerk of the Superior Court designated for that purpose by the Minister of Justice.
- You are a mayor, member of a municipal or borough council, or municipal officer designated by the Minister of Justice within the territory defined in the instrument of designation.
- You are a notary authorized by law to execute notarized acts.
- You have been authorized by the Minister of Justice to solemnize a single marriage or civil union as the designated officiant (officiant for the day).

#### Did you know that ...

Authorization to solemnize marriages issued to a person other than a designated officiant authorizes that person to solemnize civil unions as well.

#### 1.1 Authorization

As an officiant authorized to solemnize marriages and civil unions, you will receive a letter from the Directeur de l'état civil bearing an authorization number (officiant code).

However, if you are a notary authorized to execute notarized acts, you will receive no document from the Directeur de l'état civil. The authorization number for solemnization of marriages corresponds to the code entered in the roll of the Ordre de la Chambre des notaires du Québec. This authorizes you to act as officiant at marriages or civil unions anywhere in Québec.

If you are a minister of religion, clerk or deputy clerk of the Superior Court, mayor, member of a municipal or borough council, or municipal officer, you will be authorized to act as officiant at marriages or civil unions only within the territory defined in your instrument of designation and, in the case of ministers of religion, for the time specified therein.

If you are an officiant designated by the Minister of Justice, you must act as such on the scheduled day of the ceremony in the given judicial district and solely for the marriage or civil union specified in your authorization.

#### Important

You must comply with strict rules, legal obligations and an official procedure that apply before, during and after the ceremony.

#### Did you know that ...

Your authorization to solemnize a marriage or civil union can be verified by consulting the register of officiants online at the following address: [www.etatcivil.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.etatcivil.gouv.qc.ca)

## 2. Your responsibilities before solemnization of a marriage or civil union

### 2.1 Qualification to act as officiant

In order to solemnize a marriage or civil union in Québec, you must hold a valid authorization (officiant code) and make sure that it will still be valid on the day the ceremony is to take place.

### 2.2 Compliance with the conditions for the formation of the marriage or civil union

#### 2.2.1 Identity of the intended spouses

You must verify the identity of the intended spouses by asking each of them to show you two essential documents, namely:

- their original birth certificate or, if either of the intended spouses was born outside Québec, the original birth certificate or equivalent document certified to be a true copy by the officer of civil status of the country or province in which the birth was registered;
- a valid photo ID, such as:
  - Québec health insurance card;
  - driver's licence issued by Québec, another Canadian province or a U.S. state;
  - Canadian or foreign passport;
  - Canadian citizenship card (issued since 2002);
  - US permanent resident card (green card);
  - federal immigration documents (IMM 1442, for one of the situations covered by this document);
  - official IDs for members of the military, police officers or diplomats posted in Canada;
  - Certificate of Indian Status;
  - ID card issued by a Canadian province.

#### 2.2.2 Age of the intended spouses

##### For a marriage

- The intended spouses must be at least 16 years of age. You must verify this information by asking the intended spouses for two pieces of identification.
- Where one of the intended spouses is a minor (under 18), you must ensure that written consent has been obtained from the parents or tutor, unless the intended spouse in question has been fully emancipated by judicial decision. The written consent must be provided to you before the marriage.

##### For a civil union

- The intended spouses must be at least 18 years of age. You must verify this information by asking the intended spouses for two pieces of identification.

#### 2.2.3 Family relationship between the intended spouses

You must ensure that the intended spouses are not related, i.e. that neither spouse is, in relation to the other, an ascendant (mother, father, grandparent, etc.), a descendant (son, daughter, grandchild, etc.), a brother or a sister and, in the case of a marriage, a half-brother or sister. You must verify this information by asking the intended spouses for two pieces of identification.

### 2.2.4 Civil status of the spouses

The intended spouses must be free from any previous bond of marriage or civil union, except in the case where intended spouses joined in a civil union decide to marry each other.

This information must be verified by obtaining from each of the intended spouses an attestation issued by the Directeur de l'état civil or, where applicable, by the officer of civil status for the spouse's previous place of residence proving that no marriage or civil union of the intended spouse is entered in the Québec register of civil status or, where applicable, the register of the spouse's previous place of residence.

You must also verify the intended spouses' declared civil status by means of the following documents:

■ **If the person is widowed**

The original death certificate of the person's deceased spouse or, if the death occurred outside Québec, the original death certificate or equivalent document certified to be a true copy by the officer of civil status of the country or province in which the death was registered.

■ **If the person is divorced**

A certified true copy of the decree absolute of divorce or divorce certificate.

■ **If the person was in a previous marriage or civil union that was annulled**

A certified true copy of the judgment annulling the marriage or civil union.

■ **If the person had a previous civil union dissolved**

A certified true copy of the judgment dissolving a civil union, if the civil union was dissolved by way of a judgment, or a certified true copy of the joint declaration of dissolution of civil union executed before a notary, if the previous civil union was dissolved by a notarized joint declaration.

#### Did you know that ...

Two types of union exist in Québec: marriage, either religious or civil, and civil union. Both marriages and civil unions are possible between two people of the same sex or two people of the opposite sex.

The expression "intended spouses" means persons who are going to be united in the bonds of either marriage or civil union.

### 2.3 Compliance with the formalities prescribed by law

#### 2.3.1 Day, time and place of the ceremony

You must decide on the day, time and place of the marriage or civil union with the intended spouses.

If you are a minister of religion, mayor, member of a municipal or borough council, municipal officer, notary or designated officiant, the ceremony may take place between 9 a.m. and 10 p.m. on any day of the year if it is held elsewhere than in a courthouse.

If you are a clerk or deputy clerk of the Superior Court, the ceremony must be held in a courthouse between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Marriage and civil union ceremonies may not take place on legal holidays, i.e.

- Sundays;
- 1 and 2 January;
- Good Friday;
- Easter Monday;
- 24 June, the National Holiday;
- 1 July, the anniversary of Confederation;
- the first Monday of September, Labour Day;
- the second Monday of October, Thanksgiving;
- 24, 25, 26 and 31 December;
- the day fixed by proclamation of the Governor General for the celebration of the birthday of the Sovereign (Victoria Day); or
- any other day fixed by order of the Government as a public holiday or as a day of thanksgiving.

The place chosen must be in keeping with the solemn nature of the ceremony, be laid out for that purpose and enable you to observe the formalities of a marriage or civil union in a dignified and serious manner. Those formalities include:

- reading specific articles of the *Civil Code of Québec* to the intended spouses, in the presence of their two witnesses;
- receiving the intended spouses' consent to join in marriage or a civil union, in the presence of their two spouses;
- your preparation of the declaration and return of marriage or civil union;
- signing the declaration and return of marriage or civil union. The declaration and return must also be signed by the spouses and their two witnesses.

### 2.3.2 Notice

You are required to prepare and post a notice of marriage or civil union using the form in **Schedule I** (for a marriage) or **Schedule II** (for a civil union) of the *Rules respecting the solemnization of civil marriages and civil unions (Civil Code of Québec, r.2.1)*. A model notice for each is provided in Appendix I and Appendix II of this guide.

The notice must include the following information:

- the scheduled date and place of the marriage or civil union;
- the full name and home address of each of the intended spouses before the marriage or civil union;
- their date and place of birth;
- the name and home address of a witness of full age;
- the solemn oath and signature of the witness of full age attesting that the information provided in the notice is true;
- the signature of the commissioner administering the oath to the witness;
- the date of publication;
- your signature.

#### Identity of the intended spouses

You must check to make sure that the information concerning the identity of each of the intended spouses in the notice of marriage or civil union is exactly the same as that contained in their birth certificate or, if applicable, in the equivalent document issued by the officer of civil status of the country or province in which their birth was registered.

#### Identity and age of the witness

You must verify the identity and age of the witness by asking him or her to show you a valid photo ID. The witness must be aged 18 or over and must certify that the information provided in the notice is true by signing the notice.

#### The witness knows the intended spouses

You must be certain that the witness of full age who confirms the accuracy of the information contained in the notice actually knows both of the intended spouses. This witness does not have to be one of the witnesses present at the ceremony.

#### Publication period

The notice **must be posted for 20 consecutive days before the scheduled date of the marriage or civil union** at the place where the ceremony is to be held as well as at the nearest courthouse in the judicial district. If the intended spouses are already joined in a civil union, you are not required to post a notice of marriage.

#### Day of solemnization

The marriage or civil union must be solemnized within three months from the twentieth day of publication of the notice. If it is not, you must post a new notice and, if you are a designated officiant, obtain a new authorization.

### 2.3.3 Dispensation from publication of the notice

As the officiant, you may grant the intended spouses a dispensation from publication of the notice of their intention to marry or join in a civil union if you deem there is **serious** reason.

#### Application for a dispensation from publication

It is recommended that the intended spouses apply for a dispensation from publication in writing, supported by a solemn declaration, stating the reasons for the application.

Before granting the dispensation, **in writing**, make sure there is serious reason based on moral or humanitarian grounds. Pecuniary considerations are not acceptable.

No notice of marriage is required if the intended spouses are already joined in a civil union.

### 2.4 Medical examination before the marriage or civil union

It is your duty to inform the intended spouses of the advisability of undergoing a premarital medical examination.

### 2.5 Opposition to the marriage or civil union

Any person, including a minor, may oppose the solemnization of a marriage or civil union between persons incapable of contracting it, i.e. between persons who do not satisfy the conditions prescribed by law for the formation of a marriage or civil union.

Oppositions to a marriage or civil union must be officially expressed by means of **a motion filed with the court**. If an opposition to the marriage or civil union is served on you, you must contact the clerk of the Superior Court in the judicial district where the motion was filed to see if the judge admitted the opposition. Admission of the opposition stays the solemnization of the marriage or civil union, in which case you may not solemnize the marriage or civil union unless you are served with one of the following documents:

- a certified copy of the judgment dismissing the opposition;
- a certified copy of a judgment dismissing the opposition, noticing the default of the opposant for not presenting his or her opposition on the date fixed by the judge and permitting the officiant to proceed with the solemnization of the marriage;
- a withdrawal of the opposition.

### 3. Solemnization of the marriage or civil union

#### 3.1 Presence of two witnesses

The marriage or civil union must take place in the presence of **two** witnesses. The witnesses are present at the ceremony to attest to the exchange of consent between the intended spouses. They must sign the declaration of marriage or civil union.

#### 3.2 Reading of articles of the *Civil Code of Québec*

##### For a marriage

In the presence of their **two** witnesses, you must read aloud articles 392 to 396 of the *Civil Code of Québec* to the intended spouses, using the text provided in **Appendix III**.

##### For a civil union

In the presence of their **two** witnesses, you must read aloud articles 521.6 and 393 to 396 of the *Civil Code of Québec* to the intended spouses, using the text provided in **Appendix IV**.

In both cases, the text may be read in either English or French, as determined by the intended spouses. If either spouse does not understand the language used, you must ask them to provide the services of an interpreter at their expense.

#### 3.3 Consent of the intended spouses

Marriage requires the free and enlightened consent of two people to take one another as spouse. You must therefore be attentive to the quality of the consent expressed during the marriage or civil union ceremony: one of the intended spouses may be placed under some form of protective supervision, such as tutorship, curatorship or assistance from an adviser.

Persons of full age who are under tutorship or assisted by an adviser may marry without the consent of their tutor or assistance from their adviser.

However, in the case of a curatorship, you must obtain the opinion of a legal adviser (lawyer or notary) and a physician as to whether or not the intended spouse under curatorship is capable of legitimately consenting to his or her marriage or civil union.

If need be, consult the registers of protective supervision or contact the Curateur public du Québec.

##### For a marriage

You must request and receive from both of the intended spouses a declaration of their wish to take each other as spouse in the manner provided for in **Appendix V**.

Each of the intended spouses must make the above declaration in the presence of their **two witnesses** by expressing their free and informed consent to take the other person as their spouse. You must then declare them united in the bonds of marriage.

##### For a civil union

You must request and receive from both of the intended spouses a declaration of their wish to take each other as spouse in the manner provided for in **Appendix VI**.

Each of the intended spouses must make the above declaration in the presence of their **two witnesses** by expressing their free and informed consent to take the other person as their spouse. You must then declare them united in the bonds of civil union.

### 3.4 Declaration of marriage or civil union

In Québec, only the Directeur de l'état civil may enter a marriage or civil union in the register of civil status. **It is important that you follow the formalities relating to registration prescribed by Québec laws and regulations.** Only after the registration has been completed may the spouses obtain a certificate or copy of an act of marriage or civil union to prove that their marriage or civil union has taken place.

You must fill out a *Declaration of Marriage* (DEC-50) or a *Declaration of Civil Union* (DEC-55). These forms are available in French and English from the Directeur de l'état civil. Make sure to use the version in the language chosen by the spouses.

You must fill out all sections of the declaration and verify with the spouses that the information entered in it is accurate.

### 3.5 Signing the declaration and return of marriage or civil union

At the end of the ceremony, the spouses and two witnesses must sign the completed *Declaration of Marriage* or *Declaration of Civil Union*. You must give a copy of this form to the spouses for them to keep.

The two spouses must also sign the *Return of Marriage* (SP-2) or the *Return of Civil Union* (SP-7).

As the officiant, you must sign both forms as well.

### 4. Your responsibilities after solemnization of a marriage or civil union

In Québec, ministers of religion are no longer responsible for recording a marriage or civil union in the register or for issuing a certificate or copy of the act of marriage or civil union. These duties now fall to the Directeur de l'état civil.

#### 4.1 Sending the *Declaration of Marriage* or *Declaration of Civil Union*

After solemnizing the marriage or civil union, you must send the original *Declaration of Marriage* (DEC-50) or *Declaration of Civil Union* (DEC-55) form, duly completed and signed, to the Directeur de l'état civil without delay in the envelope provided for that purpose.

The Directeur de l'état civil will use the declaration of marriage or civil union to draw up the act of marriage or civil union and enter it in the register of civil status of Québec. A letter will then be sent to the spouses confirming entry of the act in the register. The letter will contain a rapid, secure access number the spouses can use to apply for a certificate or copy of the act of marriage or civil union using the online service *DE Clic! Express*.

#### 4.2 Sending the *Return of Marriage* or *Return of Civil Union*

You must also send the original *Return of Marriage* (SP-2) or *Return of Civil Union* (SP-7) form, duly completed and signed, to the Institut de la statistique du Québec **within eight days** following the solemnization.

#### 4.3 Keeping records

**If you are a designated officiant**, after sending the original declaration of marriage or civil union to the Directeur de l'état civil and the original return of marriage or civil union to the Institut de la statistique du Québec, you must file the following documents with the clerk of the Superior Court in the judicial district where the ceremony took place:

- a copy of the notice of marriage or civil union, or the dispensation from publication, as the case may be;
- the "Officiant" copy of the *Declaration of Marriage* or *Declaration of Civil Union*;
- a copy of any other document used to verify the accuracy of the information provided by the spouses (birth certificate or act of birth, consent given by the holder of parental authority, where required, release from protective supervision, divorce certificate or judgment, act of death, joint declaration or judgment dissolving or annulling the marriage or civil union, passport, civil status record, letter issued by a consulate or affidavit, as the case may be).

The clerk of the Superior Court will collect the fees fixed under the *Tariff of Court Costs in Civil Matters and Court Office Fees* for the filing of these documents. The amount of the fee is indexed annually on April 1. Payment must be made in cash or by certified cheque, postal money order or bank order made out to the Minister of Finance, or by debit or credit card. Personal cheques are not accepted.

If you cannot file the documents at the courthouse in person, you can mail them as long as payment of the fees is enclosed.

**If you are not a designated officiant**, you must keep, in an appropriate place, a copy of the notice of marriage or civil union, or the dispensation from publication, as the case may be, of the declaration of marriage or civil union and of any other document used to verify the accuracy of the information provided by the spouses.

## 5. Consequences of breach of the conditions for solemnization of a marriage or civil union

As the officiant, you must abide by the formalities and conditions prescribed by law for solemnization of a marriage or civil union. Breach of those formalities and conditions may carry serious consequences. Any marriage or civil union that is not solemnized in accordance with the *Civil Code of Québec* may be declared null by the court.

Furthermore, you may be held liable for any injury caused to either or both spouses if the court declares the marriage or civil union invalid due to your failure to honour your obligations.

In addition, the *Criminal Code* provides for sanctions against anyone who knowingly and wilfully solemnizes a marriage or civil union in contravention of the laws of the province in which the marriage or civil union is solemnized.

Lastly, if you are a minister of religion, the Directeur de l'état civil may revoke your authorization to solemnize marriages, in accordance with the *Civil Code of Québec*.



**Appendix I – *Notice of Civil Marriage Form***

**Notice of Civil Marriage**

A civil marriage will be solemnized by the clerk or deputy clerk of the Superior Court or

\_\_\_\_\_ Name and quality of officiant

at \_\_\_\_\_ Address of the place and name of the municipality where the ceremony will take place

in the judicial district of \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_

between \_\_\_\_\_ Name and domicile address of one future spouse

born on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ Municipality, province or territory, country ,

and \_\_\_\_\_ Name and domicile address of other future spouse

born on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ Municipality, province or territory, country ,

I, the undersigned, acting as witness, declare under oath that I am of full age, that I have taken cognizance of the above information, and that those statements are true.

Witness \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature

Declared before me at \_\_\_\_\_ this \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature and function, profession or quality

This notice of marriage has been posted, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_ ,

by me, \_\_\_\_\_, clerk or deputy clerk of the Superior Court

in the judicial district of \_\_\_\_\_

or \_\_\_\_\_ Name and quality of officiant

at \_\_\_\_\_ Address of the place and name of the municipality where the ceremony will take place and identification of the nearest courthouse

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature of officiant

**Appendix II – *Notice of Civil Union* Form**

**Notice of Civil Union**

A civil union will be solemnized by the clerk or deputy clerk of the Superior Court

or \_\_\_\_\_  
Name and quality of officiant

at \_\_\_\_\_  
Address of the place and name of the municipality where the ceremony will take place

in the judicial district of \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_

between \_\_\_\_\_  
Name and domicile address of intended spouse

born on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_,  
Municipality, province or territory, country

and \_\_\_\_\_  
Name and domicile address of other intended spouse

born on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_,  
Municipality, province or territory, country

I, the undersigned, acting as witness, declare under oath that I am of full age, that I have taken cognizance of the above information, and that those statements are true.

Witness \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Declared before me at \_\_\_\_\_ this \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature and function, profession or quality

This notice of civil union has been posted, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_,

by me, \_\_\_\_\_, clerk or deputy clerk of the Superior Court

in the judicial district of \_\_\_\_\_

or \_\_\_\_\_  
Name and quality of officiant

at \_\_\_\_\_  
Address of the place and name of the municipality where the ceremony will take place and identification of the nearest courthouse

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of officiant

## **Appendix III – Rights and Duties of Spouses in a Civil Marriage**

## Rights and duties of spouses in a civil marriage

### Instructions for officiant

In accordance with article 374 of the *Civil Code of Québec* and section 8 of the *Rules respecting the solemnization of civil marriages and civil unions* (c. C.C.Q., r-2.1), the officiant is required to read the following text to the intended spouses:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of one spouse

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of other spouse

before uniting you in the bonds of marriage, I am required to read to you certain articles of the Civil Code which set out the rights and duties of spouses:

**Article 392.** The spouses have the same rights and obligations in marriage.

They owe each other respect, fidelity, succour and assistance.

They are bound to live together.

**Article 393.** In marriage, both spouses retain their respective names and exercise their civil rights under those names.

**Article 394.** The spouses together take in hand the moral and material direction of the family, exercise parental authority and assume the tasks resulting therefrom.

**Article 395.** The spouses choose the family residence together.

In the absence of an express choice, the family residence is presumed to be the residence where the members of the family live while carrying on their principal activities.

**Article 396.** The spouses contribute towards the expenses of the marriage in proportion to their respective means.

The spouses may make their respective contributions by their activities within the home.

## **Appendix IV – Rights and Duties of Spouses in a Civil Union**

## Rights and duties of spouses in a civil union

### Instructions for officiant

In accordance with articles 374, 521.3 and 521.6 of the *Civil Code of Québec* and section 8 of the *Rules respecting the solemnization of civil marriages and civil unions* (c. C.C.Q., r-2.1), the officiant is required to read the following text to the intended spouses:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of one spouse

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of other spouse

before uniting you in the bonds of civil union, I am required to read to you certain articles of the Civil Code which set out the rights and duties of spouses:

**Article 521.6.** The spouses in a civil union have the same rights and obligations.

They owe each other respect, fidelity, succour and assistance.

They are bound to live together.

The effects of the civil union as regards the direction of the family, the exercise of parental authority, contribution towards expenses, the family residence, the family patrimony and the compensatory allowance are the same as the effects of marriage, with the necessary modifications.

Whatever their civil union regime, the spouses may not derogate from the provisions of this article.

(Under article 393) In a civil union, both spouses retain their respective names and exercise their civil rights under those names.

(Under article 394) The spouses together take in hand the moral and materiel direction of the family, exercise parental authority and assume the tasks resulting therefrom.

(Under article 395) The spouses choose the family residence together.

In the absence of an express choice, the family residence is presumed to be the residence where the members of the family live while carrying on their principal activities.

(Under article 396) The spouses contribute towards the expenses of the civil union in proportion to their respective means.

The spouses may make their respective contributions by their activities within the home.

## **Appendix V – Declaration of Intended Spouses During a Marriage Ceremony**

## Declaration of intended spouses during a marriage ceremony

### Instructions for officiant

In accordance with article 374 of the *Civil Code of Québec* and section 9 of the *Rules respecting the solemnization of civil marriages and civil unions* (c. C.C.Q., r-2.1), the officiant is required to receive from the intended spouses a statement of their consent in the manner provided for in Schedule V to the above-mentioned rules, as follows:

" \_\_\_\_\_, do you take  
Name of one spouse

\_\_\_\_\_, here present, to be your spouse?  
Name of other spouse

Answer: "I do". "

The intended spouse declares: "I do".

" \_\_\_\_\_, do you take  
Name of one spouse

\_\_\_\_\_, here present, to be your spouse?  
Name of other spouse

Answer: "I do". "

The intended spouse declares: "I do".

The spouses then join hands and the officiant pronounces the following words:

"By virtue of the powers vested in me by law, I now declare you,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of one spouse

and you

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of other spouse

united in the bonds of marriage."

The spouses then exchange rings. The officiant may then address the new spouses:

"You are now legally married. Allow me, on my own behalf and on behalf of all those present, to offer you our best wishes for your happiness."

## **Appendix VI – Declaration of Intended Spouses During a Civil Union Ceremony**

## Declaration of intended spouses during a civil union ceremony

### Instructions for officiant

In accordance with articles 374 and 521.3 of the *Civil Code of Québec* and section 9 of the *Rules respecting the solemnization of civil marriages and civil unions* (c. C.C.Q., r-2.1), the officiant is required to receive from the intended spouses a statement of their consent in the manner provided for in Schedule VI to the above-mentioned rules, as follows:

" \_\_\_\_\_, do you take  
Name of one spouse

\_\_\_\_\_, here present, to be your spouse?  
Name of other spouse

Answer: " I do".

The intended spouse declares: " I do".

" \_\_\_\_\_, do you take  
Name of one spouse

\_\_\_\_\_, here present, to be your spouse?  
Name of other spouse

Answer: " I do".

The intended spouse declares: " I do".

The spouses then join hands and the officiant pronounces the following words:

"By virtue of the powers vested in me by law, I now declare you,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of one spouse

and you

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of other spouse

united in the bonds of civil union."

The spouses then exchange rings. The officiant may then address the new spouses:

"You are now legally united. Allow me, on my own behalf and on behalf of all those present, to offer you our best wishes for your happiness."



