

# Registry Ceremony Civil Union Statements



Te Tari Taiwhenua  
Internal Affairs

Registry ceremonies are standardised to meet the legislative requirements of entering into a civil union, which includes the civil union statements.

The ceremony usually takes 30 minutes in total from the time the couple arrive, saying the statements, and for signing the papers. The space for guests is often limited. Other persons may not generally be involved in the ceremony.

There are English and Māori versions of the statements. If the couple would like to use the Māori version, they will need to discuss that with the celebrant when booking the ceremony. If the celebrant agrees, the couple will need to provide an interpreter if any of the celebrant, couple and witnesses do not understand the language. Before the ceremony starts, the interpreter should sign the “Declaration to translate a marriage or civil union ceremony”, which can be downloaded from [www.govt.nz/bdm](http://www.govt.nz/bdm). The form also needs to be signed by the celebrant.

	<b>Option 1</b>	<b>Civil Union Statements</b>	<b>Ngā tauākī hononga ā-ture</b>
1	Celebrant	Good morning/afternoon, my name is <.....> and it is my pleasure to welcome you all here today to celebrate this Civil Union between <Party 1 full name> and <Party 2 full name>.	Tēnā koutou, ko <.....> tōku ingoa, ā, tēnei te mihi atu ki a koutou katoa kua tae mai nei ki te whakanui i tēnei Hononga ā-Ture i waenga i a <Party 1 full name> rāua ko <Party 2 full name>.
2		The law requires that each of you make a clear statement to your partner in my presence and in the presence of at least two other witnesses identifying yourselves by name and acknowledging that you are freely joining in a civil union with each other. The signing of the civil union registration papers then follows.	I raro i te ture me whakaputa e kōrua he tauākī mārama ki tō hoa i mua i tōku aroaro, ā, i mua i te aroaro o tētahi tokorua i te iti rawa e tohu ana i a kōrua mā ō kōrua ingoa me te āhukahuka anō e herekore ana tō kōrua whakauru ki tētahi hononga ā-ture tētahi ki tētahi. Ka whai ake ko te waitohutanga o ngā tuhinga rēhita hononga ā-ture.
3		I'll now call upon each of you to make that statement, please repeat after me:	Ka karanga ake ki a kōrua kia whakapuakina taua tauākī, tēnā whakahua i muri i ahau:
4		<<Party 1 first name>> please repeat after me:	<Party 1 first name>, tēnā whakahua i muri i ahau:
5	Celebrant and Party 1	I <full name of party 1> acknowledge that I am freely joining in a civil union with you <full name of party 2>.	E āhukahuka ana ahau, a <full name of party 1>, e herekore ana tōku whakauru ki tētahi hononga ā-ture me koe <full name of party 2>.
6		<<Party 2 first name>> please repeat after me:	<<Party 2 first name>> tēnā whakahua i muri i ahau:
7	Celebrant and Party 2	I <full name of party 2> acknowledge that I am freely joining in a civil union with you <full name of party 1>.	E āhukahuka ana ahau, a <full name of party 2>, e herekore ana tōku whakauru ki tētahi hononga ā-ture me koe <full name of party 1>.
8	Celebrant	I'll now invite you to exchange rings:	Tēnā whakawhitia ngā rīngi:
9		<Party 1 first name>, please place the ring for <Party 2 first name> on his/her finger.	<Party 1 first name>, tēnā whakamaua te rīngi mā <Party 2 first name> ki tōna mānawa.
10		<Party 2 first name>, please place the ring for <Party 1 first name> on his/her finger.	<Party 2 first name>, tēnā whakamaua te rīngi mā <Party 1 first name> ki tōna mānawa.
11		These rings serve as a symbol of the statements you have made to each other.	E tohu ana ēnei rīngi i ngā oati kua whakapuakina e kōrua ki a kōrua anō.
12		<Party 1 first name> and <Party 2 first name>, I now pronounce you to be lawfully joined in a civil union.	<Party 1 first name> kōrua ko <Party 2 first name>, tēnei te whakahua i a kōrua kua hono kōrua i roto i te hononga ā-ture whaimana.
13		Congratulations.	Tēnā rawa atu kōrua.

	<b>Option 2</b>	<b>Civil Union Statements</b>	<b>Ngā tauākī hononga ā-ture</b>
1	Celebrant	Welcome ...	Nau mai, haere mai
2		I welcome you here today to celebrate, recognise and witness the civil union between << Party 1 Full name>> and <<Party 2 Full name>>. They have asked you to be with them today because they value your friendship and love, and thank you for sharing this important day with them.	Nau mai haere ki te whakanui, ki te whakamana me te mātakitaki i te hononga ā-ture i waenga i a << Party 1 Full name>> rāua ko <<Party 2 Full name>>. Nā rāua te pōhiri ki a koutou kia noho tahi me rāua i te mea he nui rawa ki a rātau tō koutou piritata, aroha hoki, me te mihi atu i tae mai koutou ki te tautoko i tēnei rā tino whakaharahara me rāua.
3		In choosing a civil union <<Party 1 first name>> and <<Party 2 first name>> are making a sincere commitment to go forward in their lives as partners ... promising love, support and encouragement throughout their lives together.	He tino paiherenga tēnei hononga ā-waenga i waenga i a <<Party 1 first name>> rāua ko<<Party 2 first name>> kia noho tahi rāua hei hoa hononga ā-ture i roto i ō rāua ao... e kī taurangi ana i tō rāua aroha, tautoko, whakamanawa i te roanga atu o ō rātau rā.
4		No ceremony can create a partnership; only the couple can do that—through love and patience; through dedication and perseverance; through talking and listening, helping and supporting and believing in each other. What this ceremony can do is to witness and affirm the choice they make to stand together as life mates and partners.	E kore te pātuitanga e puāwai i te whakaritenga anake; mā ngā tokorua anake tērā—mā te aroha me te manawanui; mā te pūmau me te manawaroa; mā te kōrero me te whakarongo, mā te āwhina, te tautoko me te whakapono tētahi ki tētahi. Mā tēnei whakahaere e whakaatu me te whakaū i tō rāua hiahia kia tū ngātahi rāua hei hoa pūmau, hoa rangatira hoki.
5		<b>Statements</b>	<b>Ngā tauākī</b>
6		We come now to the words that will confirm that choice ... the civil union statements. The statements that will declare to each other, and to us who witness, their intentions and commitment to their civil union.	I tēnei wā ka puta ngā kupu e whakaū ana i tērā hiahia... ngā tauākī o te hononga ā-ture. Ka whakapuaki ki a rāua anō, me tātau e mātakitaki atu nei, ngā tauākī o tō rāua koronga me tō rāua paiherenga ki tō rāua hononga ā-ture.
7		The law requires that each of you declare before me and at least two other witnesses that you are freely entering into this civil union and that you take the other person to be your lawful partner.	I raro i te ture me whakapuaki e kōrua i mua i ahau me ētahi atu tokorua i te iti rawa e whakauru herekore ana kōrua ki tēnei hononga ā-ture, ā, ka whakaae koe ki a ia hei hoa hononga ā-ture māu i raro i te ture.
8		I will now ask each of you to make that statement ...	Ka tonoa kōrua ināianei ki te whakaputa i taua tauākī...
9		<<Party 1 first name>> please repeat after me:	<Party 1 first name>, tēnā whakahua i muri i ahau:
10	Celebrant and Party 1	I vow that I do not know of any legal objection to this civil union between myself <<Party 1 full name>> and <<Party 2 full name>>	E oati ana ahau kāore ahau i te mōhio ki tētahi whakahēnga ā-ture ki tēnei hononga ā-ture i waenga i ahau, a <<Party 1 full name>>, me <<Party 2 full name>>
11		I, <<Party 1 first name>>, acknowledge that I am freely joining in a civil union with you, <<Party 2 first name>>.	E āhukahuka ana ahau, a <<Party 1 first name>>, e herekore ana tōku whakauru ki tētahi hononga ā-ture me koe <<Party 2 first name>>.
12		<<Party 2 first name>> please repeat after me:	<<Party 2 first name>> tēnā whakahua i muri i ahau:
13	Celebrant and Party 2	I vow that I do not know of any legal objection to this civil union between myself <<Party 2 full name>> and <<Party 1 full name>>	E oati ana ahau kāore ahau i te mōhio ki tētahi whakahēnga ā-ture ki tēnei hononga ā-ture i waenga i ahau, a <<Party 2 full name>>, me <<Party 1 full name>>
14		I, <<Party 2 first name>>, acknowledge that I am freely joining in a civil union with you, <<Party 1 first name>>.	E āhukahuka ana ahau, a <<Party 2 first name>>, e herekore ana tōku whakauru ki tētahi hononga ā-ture me koe <<Party 1 first name>>.

	<b>Option 2</b>	<b>Civil Union Statements</b>	<b>Ngā tauākī hononga ā-ture</b>
15	Celebrant	<b>Exchange of Rings</b>	<b>Te Whakawhiti i Ngā Rīngi</b>
16		Rings are symbols of your love and the statements you have made. As you wear these rings, may they be constant reminders of your promises and your commitment to your relationship.	I a koe e mau ana i ēnei rīngi, he whakamahara ukiuki i ā kōrua tauākī, paiherenga hoki ki tō kōrua hononga.
17		I now invite you to exchange rings:	Tēnā whakawhitia ngā rīngi:
18		<<Party 1 first name>> please place the ring for <<Party 2 first name>> on his/her finger.	<<Party 1 first name>>, tēnā whakamaua te rīngi mā <Party 2 first name> ki tōna mānawa.
19		<<Party 2 first name>> please place the ring for <<Party 2 first name>> on his/her finger.	<<Party 2 first name>> tēnā whakamaua te rīngi mā <<Party 2 first name>> ki tōna mānawa.
20		<b>Pronouncement</b>	<b>Whakapuakanga</b>
21		Congratulations ... today you have made a true commitment to each other ... we wish you both a fulfilling life together, rich in caring and in happiness.	Tēnā rawa atu kōrua... kua oti i a kōrua te paihere i a kōrua tētahi ki tētahi i tēnei rā ... ko te tūmanako ka rangatira tā kōrua noho tahi, i runga i te manaaki me te hari nui.
22		And now ...	Nō reira ...
23		<<Party 1 first name>> and <<Party 2 first name>>, I now pronounce you to be lawfully joined in a civil union.	<<Party 1 first name>> kōrua ko <<Party 2 first name>>, tēnei te whakahua i a kōrua kua hono kōrua i roto i te hononga ā-ture whaimana.
25		Congratulations.	Tēnā rawa atu kōrua.