



Celebrations
By Michele

Baby Naming
Ceremony
Information Kit

Congratulations

Congratulation on the arrival of your New baby, Step or new adopted child.

Organising a Baby Naming Ceremony is such an exciting time and I am looking forward to working with you on creating your perfect ceremony.

My Role

To help you celebrate and work with you and your family to create a memorable ceremony that meets with your requirements.

Ceremony

I can help you to create a ceremony that is heartfelt, filled with laughter, love and personality. Striving to inject your own style and uniqueness, celebrate who you all are as a family and welcome your new baby into your lives.

Legals

There are no legal requirements for a Baby Naming Ceremony.

In this Information pack you will provide most of the information to help you get started.

If at any stage you need any further information or have any questions don't hesitate to reach out and get in touch.

I will need to get to know you both to make the ceremony unique and memorable and I am eager to start this journey with you.

Michèle

Index

The Purpose of a naming ceremony.....	Page 4
Outline of the ceremony structure	Pages 5
Questionnaire.....	Pages 6, 7 & 8
Celebrant’s code of Conduct.....	Page 9 & 10
Making a complaint.....	Page 11
Ceremony Options.....	Page 12 & 13
Sample of Script Options “What to say”	Page 14 & 15
My Details.....	Page 16



The Purpose of a Ceremony

A naming ceremony is a wonderful way to celebrate the birth of a new baby or to welcome an adopted child or step-children into your family and wider community. Many families choose to hold a naming ceremony to celebrate their child's arrival. It can have a religious or spiritual feel but it is generally not a religious ceremony as such. It's a ceremony filled with love and gratitude for the new addition to your family and is a wonderful time for family, close friends and community to get together, take some photo's and make some memories.

The naming Ceremony can be organised to suit the family usually in the form of a party, with a cake, refreshments and themes. Creative Rituals can be included, which parents could possible include any family traditions, or even invent your own.



Outline of a Traditional Ceremony

- **Welcome/Introduction** - I will welcome everyone and explain the purpose of the ceremony. I will make welcome also any special people that have attended from a fair distance or grandparents. Introduce the parents and the child's, Life Guardians (god parents) - and of course welcome the baby x born on xx/xx/xxxx weighing 5 kgs and was 51 cm long (or an adopted child or step child)
- **Recognition of siblings (if any)** – This can also include their story of what they said when they found out they were going to be a brother/sister etc.
- **The Family Story** – I will talk briefly about your family story – when you found out you were pregnant, due date, funny cravings, delivery/labour time funny moments or anything else you feel is something significant to share with your guests
- **Readings or Poems** – This can be some special words from either a close friend or relative, which can be relevant to the family.
- **Naming the Baby** - I will ask you to confirm the name of the child and officially name him or her, this part of the ceremony can also include why you chose the name and any family background history of the name.
- **Life Guardians declaration** – In this section of the ceremony where the “Life Guardians” – or “God Parents” pledge a life long interest in the moral and ethical development of the child. Agree to guide your new addition with help, comfort, and to be of a support to them as they grow into and beyond adulthood.
- **Other vows** – You can also create “Life promises” that may be special to you both as parents, perhaps special words you would like to say to your new baby. These can be something decided and written together, This could also be a time to reflect on traditional vows from your culture. At this time you could also acknowledge the grandparents as the child's supporting adults also.
- **Inclusions/Rituals** – Spend some time researching rituals, this can add some special moments for you as a family and if you would like to include other family members or the Life guardians– I have some suggestions on page 12.
- **Exchange of Certificate** –I can organise for you a memento certificate for the day if you choose, you could even sign this before if you like and then this is can be presented to you both always allow for some great photo opportunities.
- **Conclusion & Congratulations** After presentation of the certificate I say a few words of thanks and goodwill, also relaying any information to the guests about what's happening next or similar.

Each ceremony is created for each family individually and as such, the above structure is a guideline only.

Hopefully this will get you thinking about some ideas and what you would like for your special day –

Ultimately your ceremony should reflect your personalities and values.



Questionnaire

Below are some questions to help me to piece together your naming ceremony. If you can please answer as honestly and in as much detail as you can so that I can get a really good idea on capturing your special day. This is just a starting point, we can develop these ideas as we move closer to the Naming Day.

Please reach out if you need any further guidance or have any questions.

1/. Time of the Ceremony and how long (approximately) would you like your ceremony to run for ?

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2/. Are you having your celebrations at home or a relative's house or a venue. Does the venue for your ceremony have any time restrictions ? or particular regulations ?

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3/. Do you have any housekeeping rules – use of mobile phones, posting of photo's on social media or any special seating arrangements, bubbles, rose petals, QR code check in

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7/. Do you have any guests you would like to make a special mention to ? – Interstate guests or guests via a video link

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8/. Are there any cultural elements you would like to include in your ceremony ? – Different family cultural elements, traditions or rituals (see ceremony options starting on page 15)

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9/. Would you like to include any special poetry, or especially significant words, either to be read out by myself or include a friend or relative.....

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10/. Would you like some help or advice on writing your own vows to be included into the ceremony ?

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11/. Do you have any special instructions for your guests at the end of the ceremony ? – Group Photo, moving to another area at..., drinks etc)

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.....

13/. Music – Do you require music for the ceremony ? Will you be having a slide show of photo's

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14/. Do you require help in making a play list for your ceremony and for it to be played at the ceremony ?
Would you like music played before the ceremony ?

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.....
.....

18/. Do you have a particular theme or colour for your ceremony ?

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19/. Do you require a quick rehearsal or run through of the ceremony ?

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20/. Who are the Life Guardians of the new Baby?

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21/. Do you have any grandparents or Baby's siblings you would like to include in the ceremony?

.....



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department
Access to Justice Division

Code of Practice for Marriage Celebrants – Regulation 37 L

1. APPLICATION OF THIS CODE OF PRACTICE

This Code of Practice applies to marriage celebrants (being persons registered under Subdivision C of Division 1 of Part IV of the Marriage Act 1961).

Note: Under paragraph 39I(1)(b) of the Marriage Act 1961, if the Registrar of Marriage Celebrants is satisfied that a marriage celebrant has not complied with an obligation under section 39G of that Act, including this Code of Practice, the Registrar may take disciplinary measures against the marriage celebrant.

2. HIGH STANDARD OF SERVICE

A marriage celebrant must maintain a high standard of service in his or her professional conduct and practice.

3. RECOGNITION OF SIGNIFICANCE OF MARRIAGE

A marriage celebrant must recognise the social, cultural and legal significance of marriage and the marriage ceremony in the Australian community, and the importance of strong and respectful family relationships.

4. COMPLIANCE WITH THE MARRIAGE ACT AND OTHER LAWS

A marriage celebrant must:

- (a) solemnize marriages according to the legal requirements of the Marriage Act 1961 (Cth); and
- (b) observe the laws of the Commonwealth and of the State or Territory where the marriage is to be solemnized; and
- (c) prevent and avoid unlawful discrimination in the provision of marriage celebrancy services.

5. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MARRIAGE CEREMONIES

A marriage celebrant must respect the importance of the marriage ceremony to the parties and the other persons organising the ceremony. To that end, the marriage celebrant must do the following:

- (a) give the parties information and guidance to enable them to choose or compose a marriage ceremony that will meet their needs and expectations;
- (b) respect the privacy and confidentiality of the parties;

- (c) maintain appropriate facilities to interview parties and provide office facilities, including facilities for the secure storage of records;
- (d) within a reasonable time before the marriage ceremony:

- (i) confirm all details with the parties; and
- (ii) ensure the return of all personal documents belonging to the parties (unless it is necessary to keep the documents for the ceremony); and
- (iii) sign any necessary declarations;

- (e) if requested by the parties, conduct a marriage ceremony rehearsal;
- (f) ensure that his or her personal presentation is of an appropriate standard for the marriage ceremony, and respect the expectations of the parties in relation to the ceremony;
- (g) make efforts to ensure that the marriage ceremony is audible to all those present (using audio equipment, if required);
- (h) ensure accuracy in the preparation of documents, and in the conduct of the marriage ceremony;
- (i) arrive at the venue for the marriage ceremony no later than the time agreed with the parties;
- (j) if the marriage celebrant has agreed to perform more than one marriage ceremony on the same day:

- (i) ensure that the parties to each marriage receive a level of service that meets their separate and special requirements; and
- (ii) be available at the venue for each marriage ceremony at least 20 minutes before the agreed commencement of each ceremony (unless, in the case of consecutive ceremonies, the ceremonies are to be held at the same venue);

(k) ensure that all relevant documents are completed and sent to the appropriate registering authority within 14 days after the marriage ceremony, as required by section 50 of the Marriage Act 1961;

(l) in relation to the provision of marriage services, accept evaluative comment from the parties, and use any comments to improve performance;

(m) give the parties information about how to notify the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department of any concerns or complaints they may have regarding the marriage services provided by the marriage celebrant.

6. KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS SERVICES

A marriage celebrant must:

- (a) maintain an up-to-date knowledge about appropriate family relationships services in the community; and
- (b) inform parties about the range of information and services available to them to enhance, and sustain them throughout, their relationship.

How to make a complaint

If you have any concerns about my service or performance, ideally I would like you to please reach out to me so that it can be resolved in person for the best outcome for all concerned, but if an agreement cannot be reached please follow the guidelines from the Attorney General's Office to make an official complaint.

Web site - <https://www.ag.gov.au/families-and-marriage/marriage/complain-about-marriage-celebrant>

- Complaints must be made within 3 months of first becoming aware of the problem.
- You must use the official complaint form available for download on the web site.
<https://www.ag.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-03/making-a-complaint-about-commonwealth-registered-marriage-celebrant-form.pdf>
- You must agree to the celebrant receiving your complaint otherwise the complaint will not be processed.
- The Attorney General's Office do not have the power to make a celebrant refund money. Further information on obtaining refunds is available on the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission - <http://www.accc.gov.au/>
- Once the complaint has been received by the Attorney General's Office your complaint will be acknowledged, assessed (if found to have ground) investigated and responded to.

If you need further information –

- Contact the Attorney General's office at – marriagecelebrantssection@ag.gov.au if you have a disability and need help to prepare your complaint.



Ceremony Options

Your ceremony can be as unique as you would like, reflecting your own personal taste reflecting your own personalities and values. I have listed some additional rituals below you may like to consider for your baby/child naming ceremony.

These rituals are symbolic actions or phrases used to represent the family bond you have created. You can also invent your own special ritual individual to you both, you can also research more ideas on line.

These are also a great way to include special family and friends into your ceremony



Sand Ceremony

These ceremonies are lots of fun and can include, if you wish close members of the family like children, and grandparents.

Each participant has a glass container/vessel with different coloured sand . As the ceremony progresses each party will add their sand to a main glass vessel – of which the family can then keep as a lasting memory of their child’s naming day. This completed vase of mixed sand of all different colours can represent the celebration of the birth of their child and the love of their families on their naming day.

“As these containers of sand are poured into the main container we remember that our lives are joined together as one. Just as these grains of sand can never be separated, we all wish that your continued lives together as a family will be blended like the beautiful colours created here today and to always remain as one.”



Unity Candle

This is a very simple and easy to organise ritual, that can also involve other loved ones like the Life Guardians and Grandparents

The parents each have their own candle, which they then use to light the central candle. Symbolising the family coming together to celebrate the birth of their child, with the light and warmth that can guide them through life’s up’s and downs. It would be advisable to check with the venue as to any restrictions for naked flames, or even perhaps if the ceremony is outside on a windy day may pose some difficulties. Some examples of script options can include –

“From this day onward, may “Baby X “ be surrounded in the continued beauty of the light of our love, may its light shine bright and steady upon your path and may its heat keep you both warm through all the days of your life and beyond”

“ This candle that you are about to light is a symbol of our love for Baby X, may it represent the light you have for each other in the past, today and always. Baby X may the brightness of this flame shine throughout your life giving you courage, warmth and strength and importantly and everlasting flame of love to light for your parents to light on your birthday every year.



Time Capsule – Organise your guests to bring an item that can be added to a time capsule – generally this is something that represents that year of their birth – For example the Newspaper from the day the baby was born, or special stamps or coins of that year, It could even be as simple as a special note of blessings from family or friends.

There are also so many other options and ideas that you can research, or even create your own –
Tree Planting, Special notes to the baby, Releasing Doves or Butterflies



Some Ideas on What to Say

It's your ceremony and it can be as elaborate and imaginative or as simple as you would like, even the simplest of ceremonies can be heartfelt and memorable. But here is a start to some ideas on putting your script together.

The Welcome (1)

Welcome everyone to this glorious day and what a beautiful and memorable day it promises to be. My name is Michele Johnston, I am an authorised marriage celebrant and will be officiating today. I'd like to thank you all for coming to help us celebrate the Naming of Baby X your presence here is important to both Adam and Eve, as you all share a special bond, they especially wanted to share their love with you in a small and intimate ceremony and for you also to surround them with your support and well wishes.

We also have some very important family members to welcome here with us today, Erin and Damien and their little baby girl Isla, who have thankfully made it across from Queensland to be with us today, I would also like to welcome Jean and Michael who are watching live from our face book stream from Ireland. Both Adam and Eve appreciate your efforts you have made to be with them on their Baby X's naming day.

The ceremonial naming of a child has a long tradition, it establishes his or her identity, and is celebrated in different cultures and religions throughout the world.

The Welcome (2)

Welcome everyone my name is Michele Johnston and I am extremely pleased to be here with Adam and Eve on this the naming day of Baby X

We are here today to witness Naming of Adam and Eve's little boy Baby X to welcome him to our family, surround him with our love and to continue to share in their joy of the birth of their 2nd child.

I would also like to Welcome Adam's parents Julius and Cleo, and Eve's parents Mary and Theo. I would also like to welcome the Life Guardians for Baby X Samantha and Darren.

Baby X also has a very excited Big Sister Amy who is now 5 years old, she is overjoyed, enthusiastic and full of love for her little brother and is a huge help to mummy, Amy loves reading Baby X her favourite nursery rhymes and helping mummy look after him she so far is a fantastic big Sister to Baby X

Baby X – example - was born on 26th December 2020, weighing 5.3 kilo's, and 52 cm long, in a quite quick labour of 5 hours ! Eve believe's that he came out smiling ! and had the nurses and doctors all in awe of his beautiful dark curls he was born with and his already calm and settled nature.

The Naming – “The name we are given by our parents establishes us as an individual within the family and provides the foundation of our identity in the wider community. No wonder then that such care is taken in the choice of a name” - Asking the Parents – “Please confirm the name you have given to this child: Parents response – baby X (I can also explain the name meaning and why you chose the name.)

“I am not only asking you to welcome Baby X by name into your family today but also to pledge your commitment to him/her in order that he/she will have a rich and full life as he/she grows towards adulthood”

“I will now ask Adam & Eve (Parents) to make their personal promises to their child”

Parents Promise – “We as your parents promise to always be here for you, in the good times and the difficult ones. We will try to guide you through life from our own experiences but allowing to create experiences of your own. We promise to love you unconditionally, add guidelines with fun times in your life. We promise to ensure you know that you are always loved and will always have a safe place for you to return home to”

Life Guardians/Grandparents/ Supporting Adults promise – “ We promise to support Baby X in all that you do, to help you to inspire your imagination and help you to fulfil your dreams. We promise to be there to listen and a voice to advise you, and a that we will always have an open door and open arms for a hug when it’s needed”

These are just examples you could also ask your supporting adults if they would like to write their own, this makes everything more personal, memorable and heartfelt.

Final Words & presentation

Making the decision to have a child is momentous, it is do decide forever to have your heart go walking outside of your body. It’s getting that last little burp which brings so much satisfaction. Children reinvent your world, the more you give them the more you get and the more you get the more you feel like giving, and it’s the smallest things that end up taking up the most room in your heart.

Those of you here today are all especially important to Baby X you will be part of his/her world, and he/she will look amongst you for leadership and companionship, for support and to be cherished. By watching you he/she will learn how life works.

I am sure that the welcome and support that you have pledged will be lasting and that you will love and care for Baby X throughout his/her life; and that he/she in turn will bring ever-increasing joy and happiness to your lives.

It means a lot to Adam and Eve that you have all been here to share this happy occasion. Thank you all for coming and have a wonderful celebration.



My Details

About Me – I am brand new to the celebrancy business, I have really enjoyed everything I have learnt so far. I have been involved in dance and theatre for most of my life and being a celebrant is almost a natural progression for me – It's a lot like being on stage! I've choreographed and produced a fair few shows in that time to, so I'm confident in getting things moving in the right place. I'll ensure everyone feels confident and rehearsed on your special day.

I am married to my supportive and loving husband Darren and I have 3 beautiful children 2 girls having successful careers in the Dance and Theatre Industry, and my son who is in his last year of school who wants to study music.

I am a celebrant who is fun and engaging and I really want to capture your ideal day. I will strive to ensure a fresh and personal approach to all ceremonies which will be created and customised for each client.

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