



Adrian Downey
NSW Celebrant

Candle Lighting Ceremony

Involving the Couple and or Parents and Relatives

Parents of the couple participating. If parents of the bride and groom participate in the ceremony they light the candle to represent the union between the families. In such a case parents light the candle before the wedding itself, or prior to the couple taking their married vows. The bride and groom light theirs after the ring ceremony.

Bride and Groom participating. Depending on the style of the ceremony candles can consist of one large candle representing the union of the couple or three candles representing the union of the couple as well as their families. The candles may be the same size, one large candle with two, smaller candles, or three candles of the same size placed in a candelabra where the centre candle is placed higher than the other two.

Children of current relationship or from former relationship. When children are included in the ceremony, an appropriate number of candles is used to represent them. If the children are too young, the couple light the candles for them.

Type of candles. The candles may be white, silver, gold or coloured according to the colour scheme of the event. Some couples use a single candle shaped as a romantic motif or wedding symbol. This is particularly popular for the Renewal of Vows Ceremony.

If the candle is brand new it is wise to light it prior to the event as sometimes the wick is so imbedded into the candle that it is almost impossible to light it.

Other Symbolisms. Couples often use other symbolisms such as presenting the mothers with a flower or a corsage before, during or after the ceremony. Flowers can also be incorporated into the candle lighting by being placed on the same table with the candles.

No. 1

Mothers of Bride and Groom:

Celebrant: (Bride) and (Groom) will light the marriage candle to signify that the life of both families will now continue in the new couple.

No. 2

Celebrant: I now ask, (Bride) and (Groom), to step forward and each light a candle to signify that this marriage not only unites (Bride) and (Groom), but also their families.

CANDLE LIGHTING – COUPLE AND RELATIVES

No. 3

Groom and Bride

Celebrant: (Bride) and (Groom) now light the Marriage Candle to symbolise that they have become, and always hope to be, united as one.

No. 4

G and B: Together we light one candle from the two smaller candles, as we acknowledge our union as husband and wife. By allowing the flame of the two smaller candles to remain lit, we also accept the individuality of each, as a means to fulfilling our oneness.

No. 5

G and B: The two outside candles have been lit to represent our lives to this moment. To bring bliss and happiness to our home there must be merging of these two lights into one. From now on, our thoughts shall be for each other, rather than our individual selves. Our plans shall be mutual, our joys and sorrows shall be shared alike.

As we each take a candle and together light the middle candle, we extinguish our candle, thus letting the middle candle symbolise the union of our lives into one flesh. As this one light can't be divided, neither shall be our lives divided.

No. 6

G and B: Together we light one candle, from the two smaller candles, as we acknowledge our union as husband and wife. By allowing the flame of the two smaller candles to remain lit, we also accept each other's individuality, as a means of fulfilling our oneness.

Celebrant: Let these flames remind you always, that whilst you are united in marriage, you are two individuals, best able to further your unity by bringing to your marriage your own talents, your own thoughts, your own hopes and your own dreams.

No. 7

Renewal of Vows by Husband and Wife.