

The *Forever* FRAME

Congratulations to you that you have found a love with whom you choose to share your life. Choosing to symbolize your union with a sand ceremony is extremely personal and special. The Unity Ceremony itself should really take no longer than 3 minutes. It is added into the wedding ceremony after the introductions and other traditional elements, but before exchanging the rings.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

1. Officiate Must Be Familiar with Sand Unity Ceremonies

- a. Be sure your officiate is familiar with Unity Sand Ceremonies specifically.
- b. If they are not, you will want to discuss and rehearse with them to ensure they are comfortable with it before the ceremony.
- c. If your officiate is familiar with this type of ceremony, they may already have certain vows or sayings they use. Discuss all of this with them and carefully read what they have. If you don't agree with some of it, don't be shy to ask for a revision...after all, this is your special day and will live in your memory much longer than the officiate's.

2. If Using a Family Member or Friend

- a. Obviously, each person in the ceremony is unique. You may choose to have a special family friend, grand parent, adult child or sibling perform the Sand Unity Ceremony. This really adds a personal depth to your ceremony that the officiate is just not able to provide. You would need to be sure your officiate is comfortable with it as he/she would be the one to introduce this special person.
- b. Be sure the person you use has the vows with them beforehand and has become very familiar with what to say and when.

3. Put someone in charge of your Frame!

- a. This is VERY important. You must have someone you trust be responsible for adding the Keeper Plate, sealing the frame and bringing it to the reception area. DO NOT trust the venue to take care of this. They do not generally understand the workings of The Forever Frame and they have so many other responsibilities that they will not focus on how important the frame is.

4. Take Turns Pouring the Sand Colors

- a. The sand design displays best if each participant takes turns pouring a little bit of sand at a time, rather than all pouring at once.
- b. While the officiate reads the sand ceremony dialogue, each participant will start pouring, one at a time, in turn, until each person has poured all of their sand.

EXAMPLES

NOTE: The examples below are for the Unity Sand Ceremony portion of your wedding only. You will need to work with your officiate to determine when he/she will begin this dialogue.

EXAMPLE 1: THREE SAND COLORS, CHRISTIAN/SPIRITUAL

“__[Bride Name]__ and __[Groom Name]__ have chosen to symbolize their marriage through the celebration of a Unity Sand Ceremony.”

OPTIONAL if a family member/friend performs the Sand Unity Ceremony –

“I would like to invite __[Name of family member/friend]__, __[description of this person and relationship to couple]__, to come and read for us.”

Ex1: “I would like to invite Denise, a long time spiritual friend and mentor to Elaine, to come and read for us.”

“Today, the loving relationship between __[Bride]__ and __[Groom]__ is symbolized through the pouring of these three individual containers of sand. One representing you, __[Bride]__, who you were, who you are and who you will become. One representing you, __[Groom]__, who you were, who you are and who you will become. The last represents all of you, __[Bride and Groom Name]’s__ family and friends, as you have viewed them, as you do support them and as you will nurture them in the future.”

“As these separate containers of sand are poured into a common vessel, the individual containers will cease to exist and will be joined together as one. Just as these grains of sand can never be separated, so will your marriage be. God bless this union you see before you this day.”

“Give them the strength to hold on during storms of stress and elements of disillusionment. Keep them tender and gentle as they nurture each other in their love. Help these hands to continue building a relationship, rich in caring and devotion to each other.”

EXAMPLE 2: TWO SAND COLORS, NON-DENOMINATIONAL

“Today we are privileged to participate in a unity sand ceremony. Similar to the unity candle, it indicates the joining of two lives, two hearts and two souls. __[Bride]__ and __[Groom]__, just as these grains of sand can never be separated, our prayer for you today is that your lives together would be longer than the time it would take to separate the individual grains of sand.”

EXAMPLE 3: TWO SAND COLORS, NON-DENOMINATIONAL

"[Bride] and [Groom], you will soon seal your relationship by the giving and receiving of rings and the exchange of a kiss, and this covenant is a relationship pledge between two people who agree that they will commit themselves to one another throughout their lives."

"The most beautiful example of this partnership is the marriage relationship. You have committed here today to share the rest of your lives with each other. Today, this relationship is symbolized through the pouring of these two individual containers of sand one, representing you, [Bride] and all that you will share as a wife and life companion, and the other representing you, [Groom], and all that you share as a husband and life companion."

"As these two containers of sand are poured into the third container, the individual containers of sand will no longer exist, but will be joined together as one. Just as these grains of sand can never be separated and poured again into the individual containers, so will your marriage be."

EXAMPLE 4: BLENDING A FAMILY

"__[Bride]__ and __[Groom]__ have chosen to symbolize their marriage and the blending of this family through the celebration of a Unity Sand Ceremony. I'd like to invite [Child's Name(s)]"

"As the two of you come into this marriage uniting you as husband and wife, and as you this day affirm your faith and love for one another and take each other's child(ren) as your own, I would ask that you always remember to cherish each other as special and unique individuals, that you respect the thoughts, ideas and suggestions of one another. Be able to forgive, do not hold grudges and live each day that you may share it together - as from this day forward you shall be each other's home, comfort and refuge, your new family strengthened by your love and respect for each other."

"__[Bride]__ and __[Groom]__ your vows and marriage are the foundation and strength of the family. __[Child]__ and __[Child]__ your support, trust and love bind this family as a single entity. You each choose to respect one another in love and honor through the blending of these families"

EXAMPLE 5: BLENDING A FAMILY

"__[Bride]__ and __[Groom]__ today you join your separate lives together. The two separate bottles of sand symbolize your separate lives, separate families and separate sets of friends. They represent all that you are and all that you'll ever be as individuals. They represent your lives before today. As these two containers of sand are poured into the third container, the individual containers of sand will no longer exist, but will be joined together as one. Just as these grains of sand can never be separated and poured into the individual containers, so will your marriage be. "