

Amanda and Kelly  
Dolly Copp Picnic Area  
Saturday August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
11:00 a.m.

## **Welcome**

Welcome everyone and thank you for joining us on this very special occasion. We are gathered here today to witness and celebrate the joy of the coming together of two separate lives. The greatest treasure that anyone can have in this world today is the undivided love of another person. Today Kelly and Amanda, have come to this site with their family and friends to begin their life long commitment to one another. We are here to rejoice with them in the making of this important commitment. Today they will give and receive promises and pledge their love to one another. They come here as two individuals and will leave with a different relationship with each other and their families.

Love is one of the highest experiences that we, as human beings, can have as it adds depth and meaning to our lives. The day-to-day companionship, the pleasure in doing things together, and the delight in exchanging experiences are a continuous and central part of what two individuals that love each other can share.

Committing to someone symbolizes the intimate sharing of two lives. This sharing must not diminish but rather enhance the

individuality of each partner. You must remember that this union also means you share not only the joys and successes but also the burdens of sorrow and failure. While this is an intimate sharing of two lives, it should still enhance the differences and individuality of each partner. We must give ourselves in love but we must not give ourselves away. A good and balanced relationship is one in which neither person is overpowered or absorbed by the other. Thus it is out of the balance between separateness and union, that the strength of love is born and reborn.

We are here today to celebrate the love which Kelly and Amanda have for each other and to give social recognition to their decision to accept each other totally and permanently. Kelly and Amanda come now to be united.

### **Intentions**

Kelly and Amanda , you are standing here in the presence of these witnesses to be joined as life partners and to declare your promises gladly.

Kelly, do you freely take Amanda to be your life long partner? Do you promise to share your life with her completely, promise to be honest with her and to give her comfort, support and strength?

Kelly: "I Will".

Amanda, do you freely take Kelly to be your life long partner?  
Do you promise to share your life with her completely, promise  
to be honest with her and to give her comfort, support and  
strength?

Amanda: "I Will".

### Vows

Kelly and Amanda, as an expression that your hearts are  
joined together in love, please join your hands and face each  
other as you say your vows.

Kelly, please repeat after me:

I Kelly, take you Amanda  
to be my partner.  
I pledge to share my life with you,  
to have and to hold, from this day forward,  
for better for worse, for richer for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
loving and cherishing you  
and forsaking all others,  
as long as we both shall live.

Amanda, repeat after me:

I Amanda, take you Kelly

to be my partner.

I pledge to share my life with you,  
to have and to hold, from this day forward,  
for better for worse, for richer for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
loving and cherishing you  
and forsaking all others,  
as long as we both shall live.

No greater happiness can come to your married life than pure,  
loyal and true love. May this love with which you join your  
hands and hearts today never fail but grow deeper and stronger  
everyday.

### **Ring Ceremony**

Kelly, what token do you offer to Amanda as a sign that you will  
keep your vows?

Response: "This ring."

Kelly, as you place that ring on the third finger of Amanda's left  
hand, please repeat after me:

Amanda, I give you this ring as a sign of my vow  
and with all that I am  
and all that I have,  
I honor you.

Amanda, what token do you offer to Kelly as a sign that you will keep your vows?

Response: "This ring."

Amanda as you place that ring on the third finger of Kelly's left hand, please repeat after me:

Kelly, I give you this ring as a sign of my vow  
with all that I am  
and all that I have,  
I honor you.

These rings are seen as a seal upon the couple's vows, a symbol of their lifetime commitment to love one another. It is a circle with no beginning and no end, therefore being symbolic of undying love and devotion. The third finger of the left hand was chosen long ago when it was believed to be connected directly to the heart by way of the "vena amoris" or the vein of love.

When you look at these rings in years to come, may they remind you of the vows you took this day and may you always feel encircled by each other's love, just as these bands encircle your fingers.

## Pronouncement

Since Kelly and Amanda have vowed to be loyal and loving toward each other, formalizing in our presence, the existence of the bond between them, we bare witness to this ceremony they have performed.

May these two people keep this covenant which they have made. May they be a blessing and a comfort to each other, sharer's of each other's joy and consoler's in each other's sorrows. May they encourage each other in whatever they set out to achieve. May they, trusting in each other, trust life and not be afraid. May they not only accept and give affection between themselves but also have affection and consideration for others.

We who are here and those who are absent, thinking of Kelly and Amanda , hope that the inspiration of this hour will not be forgotten. May they continue to love one another forever...

Today this ceremony is considered to be a "civil union" in the eyes of the State of New Hampshire. I am pleased to report that as of January 1, 2010, this civil commitment ceremony will automatically and legally be considered a "marriage", granting these two all the rights and privileges their commitment deserves.

I would like to take this time to thank Kelly and Amanda for

allowing me to be a part of this wonderful day; the joining of two beautiful hearts, two precious lives into one.

Now through the power vested in me by the State of New Hampshire, I pronounce life partners. You may now seal your commitment with a kiss.

Ladies and gentleman would you please welcome for the first time: Kelly & Amanda Russell.

Please join us under the pavilion to continue this celebration.