

Humanist Ceremonies

Humanist ceremonies recognize core humanist values and principles. Whether for a marriage, memorial or child naming, our ceremonies are secular in form and content. No two humanist ceremonies are the same because each reflects the unique situation, and the personalities of the people involved.



Weddings

Our Officiants provide personalized, humanistic wedding ceremonies, with an emphasis on the couple and the commitment they are making to each other. A humanist wedding ceremony requires some thought and reflection because it identifies the couple as individuals who have come together in love, respect, and equality.

Our Officiants will ensure that legal requirements for your wedding are met, and help you design the ceremony to suit your values, vision, and personal style.

Since the wedding ceremony can take place anywhere, the imagination is free to design a unique ceremony. Apart from the legally required elements, there is no prescribed form or text. Ceremonies are written especially for you. Family, friends, children, and even pets are often involved in humanist wedding ceremonies.

Child Naming Ceremonies

A Child Naming ceremony is an opportunity for the parents to introduce and welcome their baby or child to the circle of family, friends and community that will help to guide the child as they grow to maturity.

Naming the baby in a formal ceremony, the parents are acknowledging that the community has a duty and responsibility to care for all of its members. And the circle of family and friends that represent the community acknowledge their wish to be involved.

Best of all, a Child Naming ceremony is a joyous gathering that celebrates the life of the child and the life of the community with readings, music, pledges, gifts, good food, toasts and fun.



Funerals or Memorial Services

Humanists say goodbye to a family member or friend with a homage to the life service of the deceased. While we are sad that the person is no longer with us, we also celebrate the contribution they have made to us and to the world during their life. We gather together to remember the person and to share our unique experiences and relationship with the person's circle of friends and family.



**Other
ceremonies
available
on request**

What is Humanism?

Humanism is a naturalistic ethical philosophy, informed by science, inspired by art, and motivated by compassion. Humanism is a philosophy based on a concern for humanity and the natural world, which affirms our ability and responsibility to lead ethical lives, aspiring to the greater good of humanity and the world we share. Humanists affirm that the onus to improve conditions on this earth rests solely with humankind.

What is a Humanist Officiant?

A Humanist Officiant functions in the same way as any member of the clergy, with one exception. Humanist Officiants are part of an ethical and philosophical body, rather than a religious organization and therefore do not refer to any religion or deity.

Humanist Officiants perform life passage ceremonies such as weddings, memorial services and child namings, without using religious or theistic language.

The training and legal certification of officiants is overseen by the Ontario Humanist Society. Humanist Officiants are licensed to perform marriages by the Registrar General of the Province of Ontario and are governed by a Code of Ethics. For more information, visit:

www.ontariohumanists.ca/ceremonies

Concerns relating to the performance of a Humanist Officiant may be directed in writing to:

Chair, Ethics Committee

Ontario Humanist Society

265 Gore Street, Almonte ON K0A 1A0

Or email: ethicalconcerns@ontariohumanists.ca

Finding a Humanist Officiant

The Ontario Humanist Society has trained and licensed officiants throughout the Province including the following areas:

West

Caledon
Cambridge
Guelph
Kitchener/Waterloo
London
Peel

Central

Toronto & the GTA

North

Grey/Bruce Counties
Manitoulin
Muskoka

East

Kingston
Lanark
Northumberland County
Ottawa
Renfrew

To find an officiant in your area visit:

[www.ontariohumanists.ca/
ceremonies/officiant-contacts](http://www.ontariohumanists.ca/ceremonies/officiant-contacts)

For More Information on Humanism see:
ontariohumanists.ca/about-humanism

www.ontariohumanists.ca

Ontario Humanist Society



Ceremonies Program

Officiating weddings, funerals,
child namings, & other life events