

# Family Blending Ceremony

## Hand-Fasting Ritual

Spouse 1 and Spouse 2 have chosen to incorporate the ancient Celtic ritual of hand-fasting in their wedding ceremony today; but with a modern twist! Hand-fasting is a declaration of intent where the couple clearly states that they are marrying on their own free will.

Spouse 1 and Spouse 2, you know that since your lives have crossed in this life, you have formed eternal bonds. As you seek to enter this state of matrimony you should strive to make real ideals that give meaning to this ceremony and to the sanctity of marriage. With full awareness, you know that within this gathering you are declaring your intent before your friends and family as witnesses.

Now here's the modern twist! Not only have Spouse 1 and Spouse 2 chosen to bind to each other, but to incorporate the binding of each other with their sons, bringing Mom, Step-Dad, Child 1 and Child 2 together as a family unit.

## Declaration: Child 1 and Child 2

Child 1 and Child 2, the promises made today and the ties that are bound here greatly strengthen your family and will cross the years and lives of all of your souls' growth. Do you seek to enter this ritual?

Child 1: "Yes"

Child 2: "Yes"

## *Family Blending*

*Child 1 & Child 2, parenting is a promise.*

*To have and to hold from this day forward.*

*I will always be on your team, in your corner  
cheering you on. Today I make a vow to you that  
I will try every day to be the best parent I can be  
for you.*

*For better or for worse.*

*In rejection. In pain. In sleepless nights. In  
joyous mornings. In victories won and hard-fought  
battles lost, I will still be your Step-Dad.*

*And so the binding is made*

*For richer or for poorer.*

*We're in it together if I lose my job or become a  
millionaire, I will always take care of you.*

*In sickness and in health.*

*In flu season, runny noses and late nights,  
I will be there.*

*And so the binding is made*

*To love and cherish.*

*My heart is on the line. I promise to be present  
both physically and emotionally to you and to give  
you just as many hugs as you need, plus a few extra.*

*'Til life do us part.*

*This commitment is for life. Yours and ours. I am  
in it for the long haul. That however doesn't mean  
you can't leave the nest at some point though.*

*And so the binding is made*

Spouse 1, Spouse 2, *Child 1* & *Child 2*, as your hands are bound together now, so your lives and spirits are joined in the union of love and trust. The bond of family is not formed by these cords, but rather by the vows you have made. For always you hold in your own hands the fate of this union.

Above you are stars and below you is the earth. Like stars your love should be a constant source of light, and like the earth, a firm foundation from which to grow.

## *The Hands of the Family*

*Traditional Hand-fasting Prayer*  
*Author unknown*

*May these hands be blessed this day.*  
*May they always hold each other.*  
*May they have the strength to hang on*  
*During the storms of stress*  
*And the dark of difficulty.*  
*May they remain tender and gentle*  
*As they nurture each other*  
*In their wondrous love.*  
*May they build a relationship*  
*Founded in love, and rich in caring.*  
*May these hands be healer, protector,*  
*Shelter, and guide for each other.*