
Baby Naming and Ceremonies of Welcome



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Welcome, celebrate and begin a new life

A baby naming ceremony is usually held to celebrate the arrival and naming of a new baby. These sort of celebrations and ceremonies have been present in different cultures for centuries. There are no legalities involved, they are more just a recognition of the gift of life and love where the child is welcomed into the family and the wider community. In general, they will usually take place at about the same time as a baby turns 1pm. Many couples choose to use the services of the Celebrant that married them to carry out this special occasion.

While having a celebrant officiate over the service usually denotes it being non-religious ceremony, you can include religious references, and others spiritual elements. You can ask others to participate: parents make promises, grandparents may also be involved and good friends or family members nominated as 'Life Guardians', or 'guiding parents'.

The ceremony should share with friend and the community, the same people that will help you to nurture and support your child, your hopes and dreams for your child. You may choose to tell them about the significance of their name and why you chose it. And there are other rituals that you can include,; sand ceremonies, the lighting of candles, wish books and trees, rose petal blessing or the writing of a poem about the child.

Whatever elements you choose to include, it is important to remember that the structure and content of the service is up to you, so lets take the time and make the space to craft a ceremony that is personal and meaningful.



What is the structure of typical naming ceremony

There are no legal requirements and restrictions, there is no set structure, the ceremony can be fully tailored to your wants and needs, I suggest starting with something like this:

- Introductions and welcome
- A reading or poem
- About your child: stories of them, i.e their birth, their personality etc
- A message about the role and responsibilities of parenting
- The parent's promises to the child
- A song, a reading or poem
- Importance of wider family and any specific people in attendance
- Appointment of guideparents/ guiding adults
- Guideparents' promises
- The significance and meaning behind the child's name
- The naming itself
- Concluding words

What can I do for you?

In collaboration with you, I will:

- prepare scripted ceremony, working with you include readings and music, involve friends and family and find the words that enable you to add a personal meaning to the ceremony.
- officiate over a service of between 20 minutes and 50 minutes.

How much do I charge to officiate over a naming service?

I generally charge between \$250-\$450. Costs vary dependent on the complexities of the service.