

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between a humanist ceremony and a city hall / civil ceremony?

A city hall wedding is non-religious, but it limits your ceremony choices. A Humanist Officiant will work with you to create a ceremony tailored to your preferences, with options to involve family and friends, and will perform it in a location of your choice.

Is humanism a religion?

No. Humanism is a world view that human beings are capable of dignity, reason and compassion. Humanists believe that we can be good, responsible people without having a belief in a supernatural power and that we can all contribute to making the world a better place for all.

Do I have to be humanist to book a humanist officiant?

No. Our goal is to offer a values-based alternative to couples seeking a non-religious ceremony. We are happy to raise awareness and answer questions, but we are not in the business of converting people to humanism.

Will my religious friends and family be welcome?

Yes. Humanism is not about criticizing religion. There are no sermons in our ceremonies. Aside from a brief statement about what humanism is, your ceremony will be all about you, your love story, and your values.



Humanist Ottawa

About Us

Humanist Ottawa (HO) has been operating since 1968. Our vision is a world where reason and compassion guide public policy and social values to enable the fulfillment of human potential.

Humanist Ottawa's mission is to promote the cause of humanism, foster the humanist community in Ottawa, and advocate for a secular public domain. Over the years, HO has supported policy positions advocating for public policy based on reason and compassion.

For more information about Humanist Officiants, visit:



ottawahumanists.net



facebook.com/humanistottawa



instagram.com/humanistottawa



[@ottawahumanists](https://twitter.com/ottawahumanists)



[@humanistottawa4331](https://youtube.com/humanistottawa4331)



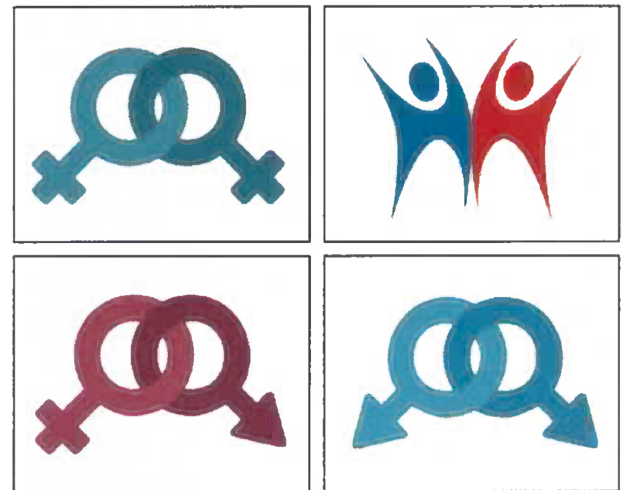
meetup.com/ottawa-humanists



Humanist Ottawa

Imagine...

A ceremony that reflects your values



Consider a Humanist Officiant for your personalized non-religious or non-denominational wedding

In Ontario, Humanist Officiants are authorized to solemnize weddings. They are registered with the Office of the Registrar General which maintains the official list of all Officiants authorized under the *Marriage Act*.

Who We Are

We are Humanist Officiants trained and authorized by Humanist Canada or the Ontario Humanist Society -- registered with the province of Ontario to solemnize marriages -- serving Ottawa and nearby regions. Though we each operate independently, our shared goal is to provide personalized ceremony services to couples seeking a non-religious or non-denominational wedding.

Our Services

After an initial discussion, we work with you to craft a special ceremony in tune with your needs -- whether it be formal, informal, or whimsical -- for gatherings of all sizes. As professional Officiants, we take care to ensure your ceremony goes smoothly, creating an inclusive environment for all. Finally, we register your marriage with the province of Ontario and provide you with a Record of Solemnization.

***Call or email any of us
for a free consultation***

Find an Ottawa Humanist Officiant



**Humanist
Ottawa**

<https://ottawahumanists.net/index.php/officiant-services/>

Ottawa Officiants authorized by:



**HUMANIST
CANADA**

[humanistcanada.ca/
officiants/directory/](http://humanistcanada.ca/officiants/directory/)

Ottawa Officiants authorized by:



**ONTARIO
HUMANIST
SOCIETY**

ontariohumanists.ca/eastern

Official Officiant List:



[https://data.ontario.ca/
dataset/registered-
marriage-officiants](https://data.ontario.ca/dataset/registered-marriage-officiants)

Fast Facts about Humanism



Humanists view marriage as a relationship based on love, concern and respect with total equality between married partners.



Humanism - the view that humans are ultimately responsible for their behaviour and their impact on the world - has roots in many cultures under many different names.



The first humanist associations were founded in Britain, Europe, the U.S. and Canada in the early to middle 1900's.



The international symbol of secular humanism is the Happy Human created by Dennis Barrington in 1965.



According to Statistics Canada, greater than one in three Canadians (35%) report no religious affiliation. That's more than 13.7 million.



Here's a list of famous humanists:

- Margaret Atwood, author
- June Callwood, journalist, activist
- Robert Buckman, oncologist, author
- Neil Degrasse Tyson, astrophysicist
- Jennifer Michel Hecht, philosopher
- Henry Morgentaler, doctor, activist
- Bill Nye, critical thinking advocate
- James Randi, magician, skeptic
- Jonas Salk, virologist (polio)
- Margaret Sanger, birth control activist
- Howard Zinn, historian, author