**Naming Ceremony**

*Option to play music as your guests wait for your ceremony to begin.*

Good morning/afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen. My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I am the Deputy Superintendent Registrar, of the City of Westminster. I have the privilege of conducting todays naming ceremony, alongside my colleague \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who will be making a commemorative record of this event.

On behalf of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(parents)*, and of course \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(child)*, I would like to welcome you all here to share their special day with them.

Almost all cultures have ceremonies to mark the important stages of our lives. Such celebrations generate a bond between all those who participate: they enable us to define new roles and to acknowledge new relationships and new responsibilities. They

mark a person’s transition through life stages and highlight the values and beliefs important to us.

Today’s celebration offers the ritual of formally naming \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(child)* and welcoming him/herinto our community. As members and friends of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(child)* family, today is also an opportunity for you to consider ways in which your relationship with him/her can provide the love and guidance that will strengthen his/her character and help to define him/her as an adult.

*Suitable place for a reading.*

As we celebrate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(child)* naming day it is a joy to see that he/she is treasured by so many. Today we honour and acknowledge the love between \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(child)* and his parents (and siblings), but also the bond between \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(child)* and other important people in his/her life, such as… *Please elaborate on those whose relationship with your child you would particularly like to honour.*

*Suitable place to incorporate up to two paragraphs summarising your journey to parenthood/the blending of your family and the highlights of your life as a family unit so far.*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(parents)*, I ask you now to please bring forward \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(child)* and confirm his/her given names.

*(One parent states child’s first and middle names)*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(child’s first and middle names)* you are welcomed today by your family and friends gathered here in your honour. It is with much joy that I formally announce the names chosen for you. *Please elaborate on your reasons for selecting your child’s names.*

*Option to include a Sand Ceremony*

Today we acknowledge the happiness and fulfilment that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(child)* has brought to his/her family, in the form of a sand ceremony. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(parents)*, relationship with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(child)* will be symbolised through the pouring of these three individual vials of sand into one, as a visual representation that just as the different coloured sands can never be separated, the bond of love they share can never be divided.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(parents)*, I ask you now in turn to pour your sand into this larger container.

(At this time, I would like to invite siblings/grandparents to come forward to add their sand.)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(parents)*, together I ask you to now honour \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(child)* by pouring his/her vial of sand.

As a family you have created this unique keepsake of today’s celebration. May it be a treasured reminder of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(child)* naming day and of the love that binds you.

*Suitable place for a second reading.*

Today’s ceremony is a time for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(parents)* to declare their lifelong intent to be loving supportive parents to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(child);* and for us to recognise special people who similarly intend to always be there for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(child)* and act as his/her guide parents.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(parents)*, do you promise to bring\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(child*) up in a home filled with love and kindness; and to instill in him/her the values to become a kind and empathetic person?

*Answer: I do*

And do you promise to always support \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(child)* in all that he/she does, and to forever be there for him/her to turn to whenever he/she needs you*?*

*Answer: I do*

*Option to include personal promises to child and wishes for their future, written by parents (and siblings).*

If I could now invite forward \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(child)* guide parents, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(guide parents)*, do you gladly accept the responsibility of acting as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(child)* guide parent; and do you promise to offer your support and assistance to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(parents)* whilst they raise \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(child)?*

*Answer: I do*

And do you promise to keep careful watch over \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(child)*  until he/she grows to be an adult and to be always ready to advise, encourage and comfort him/her?

*Answer: I do*

*Option to include personal promises to child and wishes for their future, written by guide parents.*

If I could ask you all now to please confirm these promises by signing the record of this happy event.

*Option to play music as commemorative record is signed by parents and guide parents.*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(parents)*, we hope that as a family you will think back on today often and share memories of this special occasion. It is with the greatest of pleasure that I now present the commemorative record of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(child)* naming day.

Ladies and Gentleman, please join me in a round of applause for the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (surname) family - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(parents)*, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(sibling/s)* and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(child)*!

*Option to play music as you and your guests exit the ceremony room.*