

HANDBASTING

WHAT IS IT?

Hand-fasting is a symbolic unity ritual in which a couple stand face to face as their hands are tied together - hence the phrase, tying the knot! The binding of hands is used to symbolise your separate lives becoming one.

WHAT IS A HANDBASTING CORD AND WHERE CAN I GET ONE?

A handfasting cord is a ribbon, or long piece of fabric used to bind the hands. Some couples use a single cord and others use two or three. The cord is usually made from simple lengths of lace or ribbon but you can buy ready made cord on sites such as etsy and ebay.

The cord should be around two metres long to ensure it can around your wrists and hands.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING A HANDBASTING CEREMONY?

This all depends on where in the ceremony your handfasting ceremony takes place.

BEFORE YOUR VOWS

1. Your celebrant will introduce the ritual, explaining the significance and setting the scene for what is to come
2. You face one another and take each others hand/forearm
3. You say your personal vows whilst the hands are joined
4. Your celebrant will say a few more words to finalise the handfasting as you each remove your hands, pulling the ends of the cord to form a knot.

AFTER YOUR VOWS

1. Your celebrant will introduce the ritual, explaining the significance and setting the scene for what is to come
2. You face one another and take each others hand/forearm
3. Your celebrant will say a few words as they loop the cord around your joined hands in a loose knot
4. Your celebrant will say a few more words as you each remove your hands, pulling the ends of the cord to form a knot

