



**I do I Do's!**

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Give Yourself the Gift of *Wedding Day Peace of Mind.*

## **Ceremony: Vital Questions to Ask Your Civil Officiant**

If you've decided to have a civil ceremony but aren't sure what you should consider before selecting an Officiant, here are some vital questions you definitely want to ask.

### **Planning:**

Is the officiant available on your wedding date? Just like other wedding vendors, officiants book months in advance.

Can the officiant travel to your chosen wedding site? Is there an extra charge for mileage?

If you don't have a site for your wedding ceremony, can the officiant suggest a site or provide a site?

Does the officiant charge a standard fee? What types of things does this fee cover?

### **During your meeting:**

Let your beliefs and values be known. Explain what kind of ceremony you would like to have. Look for the officiant who will treat the ceremony with the right amount of reverence.

Ask lots of questions, such as:

- Why does he/she perform weddings? Are the reasons consistent with your needs?
- Does the officiant have sample vows, ceremonies, and readings to show you?
- Will the officiant let you specify ceremony details such as music, readings, and vows?
- Is the officiant willing to discuss non-traditional wedding ceremonies and traditions?
- Is the officiant available for a ceremony rehearsal?
- Do we have final say over the script?
- How soon before the ceremony will you arrive?
- Does the fee include a full rehearsal?
- Do you require a deposit?
- Will you work with our other wedding professionals?
- Does it matter how many guests I have? Will that affect the fee?
- Will you be respectful to my family members?
- Is there anything else can you tell us about your services?

### **After the Meeting:**

Are you comfortable upon meeting the officiant?

Does he or she seem genuinely interested in you as a couple and is he or she willing to assist you with the creation of the vows and ceremony you've always wanted?

Would the officiant (and his/her spouse) like to come to the reception and rehearsal dinner?

## **OFFICIANT HIRING TIP #1**

Be certain the person you hire knows how to use a microphone, if having amplified sound! You would be surprised the number of Wedding Officiants who do not know how to use a microphone.

## **OFFICIANT HIRING TIP #2**

Make certain the person you hire offers an acceptable back-up, in the event of their sudden unavailability. Loss of voice, illness, a death in the family, etc., are possible life situations and may leave you stranded on your wedding day!

## **OFFICIANT HIRING TIP #3**

Make certain that you will have a say in the type of clothing the Officiant will wear to your ceremony. A simple black suit is better than hot pink, unless that's what you asked for!

Provided by Reverend Sandy

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