

My Rules For Preaching Wedding Ceremonies



The authority to officiate at wedding ceremonies is a privilege granted to preachers and judges in this state. Having a preacher officiate at a wedding is merely a *custom* in our society, not a command from God. A wedding ceremony performed by a judge or a justice of the peace is just as valid as one performed by a minister of the gospel. I personally take the matter of officiating at weddings very seriously, and therefore I often decline to perform wedding ceremonies when circumstances so dictate. If you want me to speak at your wedding, I will ask you to sign this agreement which states that you are willing to abide by the rules set forth in this contract. If you do not like these rules, then please go to a judge or justice of the peace and have your vows solemnized before him.

Distance

I am no longer willing to travel more than 25 miles away from home to perform a wedding ceremony. If you want to get married outside of Lake County, Illinois or Kenosha County, Wisconsin, please ask someone else to speak at your wedding.

Classes

If you want me to perform your wedding ceremony, I require that both parties come to my office for a series of three classes on marriage. In these classes, we will discuss the purpose of marriage and the God-given responsibilities of both the husband and the wife.

No Civil Ceremonies

If you invite me to speak at your wedding, I will be preaching a short sermon. This sermon will contain a reminder of the fact that “God hates divorce” (Malachi 2:16). I will also explain in your hearing the consequences of divorce. If you think this will offend your friends and relatives, then please go to a judge to get married.

Pregnancy / Divorce

If the bride-to-be is pregnant or if either party has been divorced, I want to know about it immediately. This does not mean that I will not perform the ceremony—I just want to have the information beforehand.

Your Vows

In the past few years it has become very fashionable for women to drop the word “obey” from their wedding vows. If the bride-to-be is not willing to vow to obey her future husband (and so state in her wedding vows), I will not participate in your wedding.

Arrangements

When a couple decides to get married, it seems like everyone has an opinion as to what should take place at the ceremony. However, the only person I will speak with concerning the actual ceremony is the bride and groom. I refuse to discuss your wedding with either the mother of the bride or the mother of the groom.

Demeanor

A wedding ceremony is to be taken seriously. Vows will be exchanged before your friends, family and, more importantly, in the presence of God. If during the ceremony I get the impression you are not taking your vows seriously I will simply stop preaching and leave the building. Do not test me on this—you will lose.

Reception

If you desire to dance or serve alcohol at your reception, I will not participate in your wedding. If you mislead me about this before the ceremony and go ahead and serve alcohol and/or dance at the wedding, I will not sign your marriage license—I will return the license to you unsigned. Regardless of what you may think, you are not *legally* married until the license is signed.

Tuxedo Rental

If you want me to speak at your wedding, I will wear a suit. If you want someone who looks great in a tuxedo so your wedding pictures look good, I kindly suggest you go to the county judge and exchange your vows there.

Fees

Instead of a payment to me for officiating at your wedding, I request that a \$100 donation be made to the **Fisher House Foundation** (a network of comfort homes where military and veterans' families can stay at no cost while a loved one is receiving treatment). Please make the check out to the **Fisher House Foundation** and give it to me before the wedding—I will mail your check to them myself.

I agree to the terms of this contract.

Signature of the bride

Signature of the groom

David Padfield