

Hello Brides & Grooms!

The purpose of this letter is to give you insight as to my fee's and what they entail.

*The only thing I ask of you is to please take a few minutes to read my message.*

*Not only will you have a better understanding of fee's, you will have a better understanding of my true compassion and belief that every couple deserves to have a beautiful wedding day to start their marriage on the right foot.*

Marriage is difficult and comes with many good and bad days. Starting your marriage out right, creating memories to hold on to will give your marriage strength and memories to reflect upon during the rough times.

*Fees are always difficult to discuss. Couples often struggle between "their budget" and "getting what they have always wanted their dream wedding to be", especially in these tough economic times.*

- Some couples think of this as a "15 minute ceremony" why do they charge so much?
- Other couples think "I could go to the court house and get married for \$35.00"
- Still others think "I can have any Notary or friend do it for little or nothing"
- Other couples truly do understand the importance of their wedding day and want if nothing else a ceremony that reflects who they are as a couple.

*The truth is sure you could go to the courthouse or have a friend conduct your wedding ceremony.*

*The truth is I receive numerous calls from brides in a panic "my friend backed out at the last minute"; "the person who was going to marry us didn't show up or backed out at the last minute". "The courthouse will only marry us during business hours and we don't have a say over our ceremony script". I found out there is no privacy at the clerk's office etc.*

**Let's be real and honest!**

*This is your wedding day. This is your real wedding.*

Sure you can say I will go to the courthouse and then at another time have a real wedding with guests. The truth is *that was your real wedding* and *that is the wedding that will engrained in your memory forever.* Don't kid yourself most times the second wedding never happens and it certainly will not replace the memory engrained in your mind of your real wedding.

Conducting a wedding is much more than a 15 minute ceremony, your guests have all been invited to celebrate your wedding day with you (*who incidentally all have their eyes on you to support you and witness your celebration of marriage*).

**I will try to explain to you some things you may not be aware of.**

**Officiant Services:**

- We offer a variety of levels of services. Some couples just want a short traditional wedding ceremony and others prefer a fully customized ceremony script that is crafted specifically to them.
- Some wedding sites are fairly close and others are over an hour drive away. We try to offer a variety of options for each couple.
- Every ceremony I conduct and write takes time to insure it is perfect for you.

- I spend many hours on emails, writing and modifying ceremonies.
- Many hours are spent on the phone and email corresponding with each couple.
- Public Speaking Skills using proper grammar and keeping your guests focused
- The ability to properly use a microphone is a must.
- It is necessary to possess the knowledge to conduct a professional rehearsal to insure you have confidence on your wedding day.
- I dress properly and appropriately for your ceremony.
- I don't work a full-time job and "fit you in" when I can; this is my job.
- I allow photographers to move freely around us during your ceremony to insure you get the best pictures possible.
- As a professional, I am not distracted by the flash of a camera; or children crying, or cell phones ringing etc. I am focused on the two of you. It is your wedding day and your memories you are creating.

### **Registered Business:**

- Because I have a legitimate registered business you don't have to worry who you are giving your money to and if someone will show-up or cancel at the last minute.
- Every dollar I make is taxable. Which means what you give me is not what I end up with.
- I must pay income tax bookkeeping and accounting expenses along with Insurance & License fees, medical ins. etc

### **Advertising & Website:**

- Monthly fees for you to find my business and website, website maintenance fees, Business Cards, Brochures, Computer upkeep, computer paper & ink, postage, cell phone, fax, camera to take and upload photo's.
- Are you aware every time you sign up for a wedding website they send us the lead and to obtain your information we must pay for it along with a monthly fee? Just one more added expense to contact you.

### **Transportation:**

- Auto maintenance for every meeting, rehearsal and ceremony adds miles, gas, oil, wear and tear, tires, etc to insure my vehicle is dependable to make it to your event.

### **Charity:**

- I offer free of charge a wedding to any couple that is suffering terminal illness from Breast Cancer.
- I offer a contest each year for a free wedding
- I have conducted many weddings at reduced rates for emergency hardship situations. Just ask (I don't know if you don't ask)
- I have conducted weddings in hospitals and homes for terminally ill bride & grooms
- I absorb these costs and don't increase my prices to compensate for these events.

My rates are not the lowest nor are they the highest. I do try my best to give back to our community.

As you see my pricing reflects many things; I hope this gives you a better understanding of why my fees are what they are.

The final decision of course is yours. Whatever your decision is, I want you and your guests to have beautiful memories of your wedding day that last a lifetime.

Sincerely Sharon