

Questions to ask potential officiants

Getting Started (may be done over email when requesting a consultation)

- Are you available on our selected wedding date?
- How many weddings do you book in the same day? How much time in between?
- Are you able/willing to come to our ceremony site? If we don't have one yet, can you recommend any?
- What are your standard fees? What do you charge extra for?
- Will you personally be officiating over my wedding? Do you ever use subcontractors?

During your consultation:

Express your ideas about what you want. Are there faith traditions you want incorporated? Are there things you'd prefer not to have in your wedding?

About the celebrant:

- Why do you perform weddings? *(Are their values in line with your own?)*
- What is your wedding philosophy?
- What are your credentials? Are you ordained?
- Can you legally perform weddings in our state? Will you be able to sign our marriage license?
- Do you have a back-up in case of extreme illness or emergency? Have you ever had to be late to or miss a wedding?
- Do you require pre-marital classes or counseling? Do you offer this yourself? If you do not, and we want to do this, can you recommend a local practitioner?
- Will you perform our wedding if we've been living together prior to our marriage? If one or both of us have been previously married? If we already have children together?
- Do you have references from weddings you've performed in the past?

About the ceremony:

- Do you have sample ceremonies we can look at? Adapt?
- What is the process for creating my ceremony?
- Will you let us pick ceremony details, including vows, readings, music, unity rituals?

- Do you have recommendations for vows, readings, music and other elements?
- Are you open to non-traditional ceremonies? Theme ceremonies? (*if that is something you're interested in*)
- Are you willing to include aspects of one or both of our religious faiths? Is there anything you're not comfortable including?
- Are you willing to work with another officiant, clergy member, or family member representing a different faith background?
- Will you provide a little light-hearted humor if that is what we want?
- Are you available for a rehearsal? Is there an additional fee for this?
- Do we have final say over the ceremony script? How far in advance of the ceremony will we receive this?
- How far in advance of our ceremony time will you arrive?
- How do you include our family/children in the ceremony?
- What do you wear to ceremonies? Are there options?
- Do you want to attend the rehearsal dinner/reception?
- Is there anything else you can tell us about your services?

Fees and Money Matters

- What is your fee? Does the fee include the rehearsal?
- Do you require a deposit to secure our date?
- When is the balance of the fee due? What forms of payment do you accept?
- Are there any hidden charges?
- Do they have a refund policy? What is it?
- Does it matter how many guests we have? Does that affect your fees?
- Do you have a written agreement or contract?

After the meeting:

- Do we feel comfortable in the presence of this officiant? Does he or she seem flexible?
- Does he or she seem genuinely interested in us as a couple, and honor our spiritual beliefs?
- Do we like the way he/she presents themselves? Do they seem like a good public speaker, and fit with the overall energy we want at our wedding?
- Do we intuitively feel we can entrust ourselves to this person for this important and intimate part of our wedding?