

Heartfelt Weddings

Kathy Wilkerson, Wedding Officiant

Frequently Asked Questions

Do you provide sample ceremonies?

I am happy to send you sample ceremonies, along with a selection of love poems, inspirational readings, etc. Each ceremony contains certain elements, and you can mix-and-match from the samples or create your own wording (which I am happy to help you wordsmith):

- ☀️ Welcome
- ☀️ Discourse on Marriage/Love/Commitment
- ☀️ Vows/Statement of Intent
- ☀️ The I Do's
- ☀️ Exchange of Rings
- ☀️ Closing
- ☀️ Pronouncement
- ☀️ The Kiss
- ☀️ Presentation to guests

Do you perform weddings for couples who are from different cultural or religious backgrounds?

Absolutely. Many couples come from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds, and I work with each couple individually to create the ceremony that works for them, usually honoring both traditions in some way.

Do you require or offer premarital counseling?

I am happy to offer premarital counseling, if a couple requests it; however, I do not require it.

How many times do you meet with a couple before the wedding?

This varies with each couple. Generally, we meet personally to make the initial connection. Afterward, we work back and forth via e-mail or telephone to create the ceremony. Some couples like to meet again to discuss the details; others find they are too busy as the wedding day approaches. I am always available by e-mail or phone to answer questions along the way. Occasionally, I get requests from people who live in another state. We do all of the preparation via e-mail and telephone, then meet for the first time at the wedding (or rehearsal)!

What do you wear?

Depending on the preference of the couple, I either wear a suit or a black minister's robe.

What kind of legal paperwork is required?

To be legally married in the State of California, a marriage license is required. The couple is required to appear in person with photo ID at the County Clerk's office to fill out the paperwork. It usually takes about 20-30 minutes. The license is good for 90 days. Costs vary with each county. Recorded information is available by calling the number listed under "County Clerk" or "Marriage License" in the County Government pages of the telephone book.

Do you require a deposit?

Upon signing the contract, I request a deposit of half the fee to hold the date. The balance is due on the day of the ceremony.

What happens if you get sick or injured and can't perform the ceremony?

I have several associates who can step in and perform the ceremony, should I be unable to do so due to injury or illness.

Do you usually stay for the reception?

After the ceremony, I stay at least long enough to allow for photos and to get the signatures of the witnesses. Most often, I find a discreet moment to depart (usually toward the end of the "cocktail reception") leaving you to celebrate with your family and friends. How long have you been doing this?

How many ceremonies have you performed?

About seven years ago, a good friend asked me to perform her wedding ceremony. (My background is in counseling/therapy, teaching stress reduction/meditation, corporate training, and co-authoring several books on health and nutrition.) I was deeply honored, and became ordained as a minister in order to perform her ceremony. I felt such a heartfelt connection to the process that I decided to offer my services to others who might want a wedding officiant. Since that time, I have performed hundreds of wedding ceremonies around the Bay Area, and spend most of my time working with couples to help make their wedding day very special.

Do you perform Commitment Ceremonies for same sex couples?

Yes. If two people love each other and want to make a commitment to each other, then I am happy to work with them to create their commitment ceremony and provide a Certificate of Commitment for them to commemorate the occasion.