



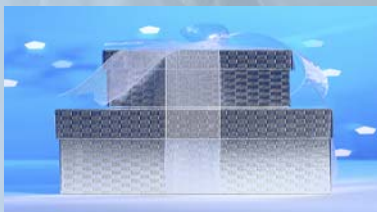
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Or.... **We Will Show** A Friend Or Family Member "How to Preside" Over Your Wedding Ceremony!

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We Offer A Wedding Ceremony Planning Session & Wedding Ceremony Coordinating on The Day Of Your Wedding! Even Wedding Rehearsal Coordination upon request!



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Wedding Officiant, Wedding Clergy/Minister, Wedding Judge, Non-Denominational Officiant Or Justice Of The Peace, Selection Tips

The following information is provided for the couple who will be picking their wedding clergy /minister, etc., from a referral list, the internet, the phonebook or even via the recommendations of others.

Important Note: *Picking a person to preside/officiate over your wedding ceremony is not as easy as some may think! No matter where your wedding ceremony is to take place - beach, hotel, sports club, park, country club, boat, church, chapel or other wedding venue... even, a destination wedding ! Apart from the obvious, that of liking the person who may become your Officiant, there are important "trade tips", needing to be considered. Making an uninformed decision as to your wedding Officiator could bring disaster to your wedding day!*

Important Definition: *An “**Officiant**” or “**Officiator**” is the person who will legally preside over your wedding ceremony. An “Officiant or Officiator” may be a Priest, Clergy, Rabbi, Justice of the Peace, Non-Denominational Clergy or other type of minister. The following points will refer to Officiants or Officiators, specifically and in general. **Please read the right column with “blue” background first, then the column with “light yellow” background last.***

● **Before meeting with your potential Officiator – Research!**

Research the Officiant's reputation in the wedding community. Ask for several

● **Time to let the perspective Officiator demonstrate their expertise. - The interview meeting and planning session**

references to couples that they have previously married and/or wedding professionals they have worked with on a regular basis. *Check references until you are satisfied enough to meet and potentially book their services.*

Note : If the references are to wedding professionals, be certain that they are recommending your potential Officiant, because they are good at what they do, as ↓ well as reliable. Not merely due to the Officiator's payment to the wedding location or wedding vendor for his/her placement of an advertisement in their wedding brochure or on-line directory!

● **Be certain** as to the Officiator's range of education & training in - public speech, wedding ceremony planning, wedding ceremony & vow writing, marriage legalities, wedding vendor etiquette, etc. If the Officiator seems knowledgeable, carries academic degrees relative to clergy related fields & is trained accordingly, etc, consider scheduling an initial interview.

Note: The wedding ceremony is only one of the many types of ceremonies in which an Officiator should be trained. Baby naming, Quinceanera, Anniversary, Memorial and other such ceremonies marking other human events, should also be included within Officiator education and practice.

In short, select a **“Career Officiant”** not a “part-timer” simply trying to make extra pocket change! A professional's commitment to their field is often a labour of love, represents years of formal education and internships or practicums and all the sacrifice that comes with it! ***A “real” Officiator/Clergy has as much or more academic education and practice as a doctor or lawyer!*** As “fake” Officiators

1. Discuss with the Officiator their handling of potentially embarrassing or tense wedding ceremony moments on your wedding day... i.e, what if the groom forgets his vows, faints, the microphone acts-up, the wedding singer forgets the words to the song, flower girl and/or ring bearer won't behave or walk down the aisle... etc. *Time for the Officiator to demonstrate their well rounded experience in ceremony presiding.* ↓

2. Have the prospective Officiator explain their “back-up” Officiator system, i.e., “back-up” plan, etc. What is their "standard operating procedure", in the event of an emergency? Who would they contact as their replacement, etc? What are their replacement's qualifications? *Time for the Officiator or Clergy to supply important details as to the structure, commitment and strength of their professional affiliations.*

3. Expect a demonstration of the prospective Officiator's abilities in the construction and personalization of a wedding ceremony text? Do they provide original materials for your selection? Are they organized? Professional? Personable? Flexible? Presentable? *They should be masters of wording and personalized ceremony structuring. Time to not present a “canned” ceremony from someone else's book or throw together a compilation of borrowed materials that make no sense.*

5. Will they furnish you with an agreed upon “finalized draft” of your wedding ceremony for your approval? Are they willing to learn a completely “new” ceremony text? Will they honour the wording of the finally approved ceremony draft? Will they promise to not import their own ideas into the ceremony text without your consent? *Time to hold the Officiator*

and Clergy come and go each year, (*those obtaining the right to preside over wedding ceremonies via a simple Internet application*), do select a “real” Officiator or Clergy, one experienced in years of presiding and possessing earned advanced academic degrees in their field.

● Make certain of some of the following additional points : ↓

1. That you will have a choice of wedding ceremony content & vows. *Choice here gives bride & groom more assurance & control.*
2. That the Officiant will provide, at the interview, plenty of *original* ceremony ideas, wording & customs materials, even completed wedding ceremony samples, etc. *Oh, make certain that the Officiator is willing to include some of your own ceremony wording and/or vows materials when helping you to construct your wedding ceremony! Personalization is crucial to a meaningful ceremony!*
3. That the Officiant will assist in the process of the construction of the wedding ceremony content and vows. Even, teaching you the “how to” of ceremony construction. An Officiator that is willing to do this, will more likely stick to your previously agreed upon wedding ceremony text on your wedding day. *The understanding of wording options gives a bride & groom more assurance & control.*
4. That the organizational skills of your potential Officiator are evident and satisfactory. Like when selecting any service as a consumer, expect flexibility, integrity, professionalism and competency.

or Clergy reasonably accountable to your ideas and wording selections.

6. Upon booking, will they put the pertinent financial details in writing? It is time for them to earn your trust by providing more than words - *a real contract should be furnished.*

7. What specific services are covered in their Officiant donation, service fees, etc? ↓ Sometimes, a couple is only paying for the Officiant's authority to marry them, and should not expect more service than that! *Services expectations should be in writing!*

8. Does your prospective Officiator/Clergy have a full-time trained support staff to assist them and you in the ceremony planning Monday- Friday?

9. Learn “How to obtain a legally issued marriage license”. The Officiant should give you tips on the most time efficient way to obtain your license. Best days to apply. When to apply. Where to apply. How long the license is valid. The jurisdiction of the license type. And so much more! Time for the Officiator to demonstrate their knowledge and willingness to assist in the other “official” aspects associated with their service offerings, inclusive of bride name change and groom change of marital status.

10. Ascertain, religious or other requirements not yet discussed. *Time for the Officiator to disclose other of their “rules and regulations”.*

11. Ascertain whether or not the prospective Officiant offers wedding rehearsal coordination or even attends the rehearsal if required? Some officiators will not attend the rehearsal under any

5. That the Officiant will guarantee, in writing, their adherence to the finally agreed upon ceremony content & wording. *Nothing but a fully qualified and experienced and educated and involved Officiator or Wedding Clergy is acceptable!*
6. That the Officiant will offer a reasonable choice as to his/her wedding day apparel. The right↓ colour, style, etc., is very important for your wedding pictures' look & feel. Some Officiators or Clergy have their own prescribed garb, while other officiators do not! *What the Officiator or Clergy wears could be nearly as important as what they say during the ceremony. Don't leave attire to chance!*
7. That the Officiant eventually selected will be the one presiding over your wedding ceremony. Make certain that he/she will give a guarantee in writing to this effect. It is not unusual for a couple to select an Officiant, only to have another present them self on the wedding day. *Apart from an emergency, an Officiator or Clergy substitute on the wedding day is unacceptable.*
8. As to whether or not they require marriage counseling and what sort? With whom? Where? How many weeks? Is your "passing" of the marriage counseling sessions a requirement in order for the Officiant to perform your ceremony? *Note: Some church pastors and other clergy will require their "stamp of approval" on your marriage in order to preside over your marriage ceremony. If the Officiant does not think that you should marry, they will not preside over your wedding*

circumstances, or may charge for this service. Time for the Officiator to "map-out" the processional and recessional segments of the wedding ceremony and to demonstrate their knowledge on wedding rehearsal etiquette. Even to review the "what to expect" at the wedding rehearsal itself. Discussion of ceremony music and the participation of others, i.e., readers, etc. during the ceremony. *Time to organize the ceremony from start to finish.*

12. Ascertain whether or not the prospective Officiator is trained in and offers "wedding day ceremony coordination". Do they help to inform and↓ coordinate the "working together" of wedding vendors associated with the wedding ceremony itself,... i.e., photographer, ceremony music provider, wedding singer, wedding coordinator, wedding ceremony readers, sound technician, etc.? *Time for the Officiator to demonstrate their willingness to work with other vendors in an effort to promote organization and team work, and to carry out your ceremony wishes on the wedding day itself.*

Your Wedding Officiant should be to the wedding ceremony what your reception M.C., D.J., or Wedding Band leader is to the wedding reception - facilitator, organizer, coordinator, etc. This is especially true if there is no real "hands on" wedding planner or banquet coordinator at your wedding venue. A wedding officiant should not arrive minutes before the wedding ceremony asking only, "where do I stand"! In short, the Officiator is the organizational facilitator of the wedding ceremony - the "glue" which binds the wedding ceremony professionals together into a cohesive working team. *Time for the Officiator or Minister to demonstrate their*

ceremony. All expectations should be presented up front.

9. If a religious ceremony, whether or not the Officiant will require any special religious obligations, (other than pre-marital counseling), such as church membership, etc. Failure to prescribe to certain requirements may jeopardize your wedding day agreement with the Officiator or ↓ Clergy.
10. That the prospective Officiant will fully apprise of marriage license requirements, best times and dates to apply for the license, what to bring to the marriage license bureau, etc. *Don't let the prospective Officiator or Clergy pass their responsibility to inform off to someone else.*
11. Be certain that the prospective Officiant has a guaranteed emergency Officiator "back-up" network before agreeing to interview them as a potential wedding presider. Independent Officiators and even those associated with larger groups do not guarantee a "back-up" Officiator in the event that they are unable to fulfill their obligation to preside over your wedding ceremony. *Emergency "back-up" is a basic requirement not a "take it or leave it" option.*
12. Make certain that the prospective Officiant will put their commitments in writing. *Failure to do so may be a bit suspicious.*
13. Be certain that the Officiator or Clergy has a full-time support staff to assist with ceremony planning questions in the event of their limited availability prior to the ceremony week or day. Most

competency and understanding of the importance of their role on the wedding day.

13. As a part of the Officiator's "**Wedding Day Marriage Ceremony Coordination**", will they be responsible for the proper placement of wedding ceremony props on the altar table, or other such ceremony display? Props such as the "Unity Candle" & lighter.... Roses for the mother of bride and/or groom.... The wedding rings.... Wine goblets, etc.?

Will the prospective Officiator also be responsible for technical equipment and ↓ related logistical concerns associated with his/her presiding duty.... i.e., running the sound check, pre-lighting candles to remove excess wax, surveying the ceremony area for hidden dangers such as aisle potholes or bees amongst the ceremony flowers, etc? *It is time for the Officiator to demonstrate his/her obligation to the facilitation of the seamless presiding of your wedding ceremony.*

14. Ascertain the prospective Officiator's knowledge on the proper filing of a marriage license. What is their legal responsibility on this regard? Will there be any additional fees associated with the carrying out of their legal obligation? Are they willing to pre-apply for the "certified" copies of your marriage license, etc? *It is time for the Officiator to further demonstrate their obligation and intention to provide a complete ceremony information service to the bride and groom.*

15. What is the Officiator's knowledge of bride name change and groom change of marital status? Do they provide information or access to the forms and instructions

Officiators or Clergy see their help not going beyond the agreement to solemnize the marriage on the wedding day. This is a false understanding of the responsibility that accompanies an official's right to preside. With the right, comes the responsibility to organize and inform and to help in ceremony related matters. *Don't be left to chaos and confusion!*

● Be certain that your potential Officiant meets with you prior to booking their services. This meeting may double as an interview & wedding ceremony planning session. This is the time for the Officiant to show you who they are and how much they really know about wedding ceremonies construction and presentation. *It is not usually best to select an Officiant via telephone, and to not meet prior to the wedding day.* It is worth paying more to meet an Officiant prior to booking their services, if an additional fee is involved.

● Be certain that the Officiant you agree to interview is the one who will be at the interview. Some Officiators, Clergy, Ministers, Officiant groups, etc., will set-up an appointment with one person & another show-up for the interview. Remember, in this scenario, you would have already begun to research one Officiant, now needlessly having to start over again! *(continued on first page right yellow column) →↑*

associated with name change, and change of marital status notification? *The "official" things should be a part of a trained Officiator's knowledge base.*

16. Ascertain the accessibility of your Officiator during the whole ceremony planning process. Do they have a full-time support staff? Is the support staff knowledgeable as to the "official" aspects of the wedding ceremony, as well as the practical? Will they be of help to you in the event of the need for immediate answers, i.e., "how do I organize my ceremony programme", "what is the County Clerk's web site address?" etc? *It is time for the ↓ Officiator or Clergy to prove their professionalism and commitment by providing an accessible support system for the client- bride and the client- groom A full-time Officiator or Minister will have a support staff.*

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Why An “Emergency Clergy Or Officiator Guarantee”?

What If Your Officiant, Wedding Clergy, Judge, Justice-of-the-Peace, Non-Denominational Minister, or Deputized Family/Friend Is Unwilling Or Unable To Preside Over Your Marriage Ceremony & Wedding Vows?

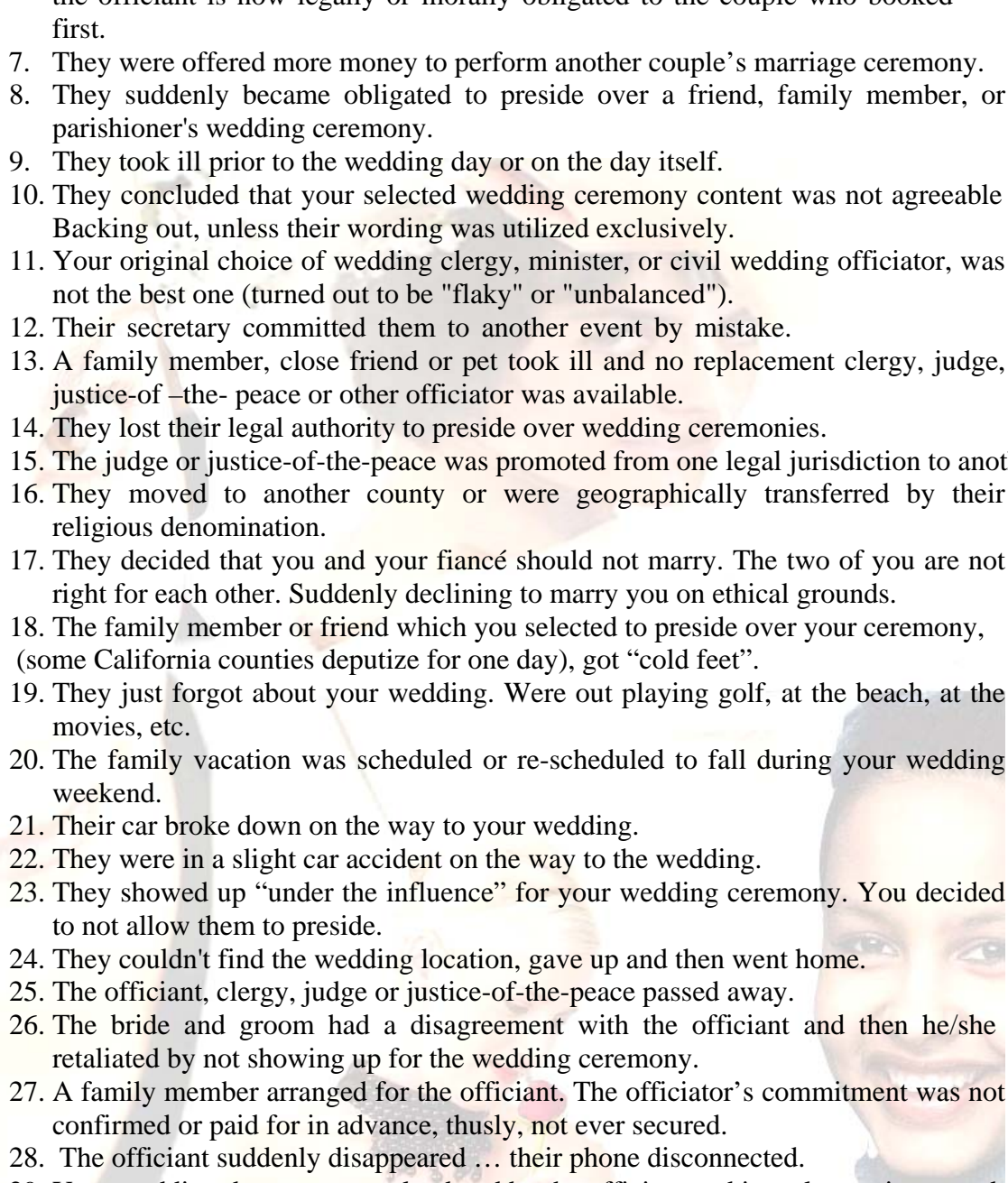
“Can you send a wedding clergy immediately to....?” Yes, this happens! We receive distress calls (from wedding coordinators, brides, parent of the groom, etc) when a pre-appointed wedding officiant or clergy has backed out or not showed up on the wedding day. Why does this happen? Could your wedding officiant, clergy, minister, judge or justice-of-the-peace do this to you? Yes, they could! Yes, they do!

TCN career wedding officiants have rescued brides and grooms when their non-TCN marriage clergy or civil wedding officiators have not shown up or backed out on their wedding day! In short, the church pastor... rabbi... or the non-denominational clergy, etc., selected from outside the EC officiator service, may not fulfill their agreement to preside over your wedding ceremony. This can be especially true when applied to an "Internet" clergy/officiator (received his/her right to preside over marriages via the Internet). "Internet" clergy have no training, nor are qualifications reviewed or suitability established. The only requirement is the payment of a small "fee" in exchange for an "ordination" certificate. The grantor of the "ordination" and the one being "ordained", never actually meet in person! All too often "Internet" officiators are looking to make "pocket" change or to support a drug or alcohol problem or to find a place in the spotlight. "Internet" clergy/officiators are generally passing through the wedding world!

New faces come and go every year! The good news - TCN officiants are *not* "Internet" ordained!

Reasons Why Marriage Ceremony Officiant Might “Back Out” Or Not “Show Up” On Your Wedding Day:

1. They accepted a speaking engagement of more monetary importance than that of what your marriage ceremony officiation secures.
2. By direct orders of superiors within their religious or political affiliations, they are obligated to lecture at a convention or other event. As such, are now prohibited from performing your wedding ceremony.
3. The ceremony officiator is called into work at their other job. This would apply to the “part-time” wedding officiant who works during the week in another occupation.
4. They decided to stop performing marriage ceremonies.

- 
5. They suddenly decide that people of different faiths or cultural backgrounds should not marry.
 6. They double-booked a wedding ceremony time slot. Your marriage ceremony is at the same time as another couple's (who booked before you). As such, the officiant is now legally or morally obligated to the couple who booked first.
 7. They were offered more money to perform another couple's marriage ceremony.
 8. They suddenly became obligated to preside over a friend, family member, or parishioner's wedding ceremony.
 9. They took ill prior to the wedding day or on the day itself.
 10. They concluded that your selected wedding ceremony content was not agreeable to them. Backing out, unless their wording was utilized exclusively.
 11. Your original choice of wedding clergy, minister, or civil wedding officiator, was not the best one (turned out to be "flaky" or "unbalanced").
 12. Their secretary committed them to another event by mistake.
 13. A family member, close friend or pet took ill and no replacement clergy, judge, justice-of-the-peace or other officiator was available.
 14. They lost their legal authority to preside over wedding ceremonies.
 15. The judge or justice-of-the-peace was promoted from one legal jurisdiction to another.
 16. They moved to another county or were geographically transferred by their religious denomination.
 17. They decided that you and your fiancé should not marry. The two of you are not right for each other. Suddenly declining to marry you on ethical grounds.
 18. The family member or friend which you selected to preside over your ceremony, (some California counties deputize for one day), got "cold feet".
 19. They just forgot about your wedding. Were out playing golf, at the beach, at the movies, etc.
 20. The family vacation was scheduled or re-scheduled to fall during your wedding weekend.
 21. Their car broke down on the way to your wedding.
 22. They were in a slight car accident on the way to the wedding.
 23. They showed up "under the influence" for your wedding ceremony. You decided to not allow them to preside.
 24. They couldn't find the wedding location, gave up and then went home.
 25. The officiant, clergy, judge or justice-of-the-peace passed away.
 26. The bride and groom had a disagreement with the officiant and then he/she retaliated by not showing up for the wedding ceremony.
 27. A family member arranged for the officiant. The officiator's commitment was not confirmed or paid for in advance, thusly, not ever secured.
 28. The officiant suddenly disappeared ... their phone disconnected.
 29. Your wedding date was not calendared by the officiant and is no longer interested or available.

We have heard the above reasons before... Call now to secure an **TCN** officiator or clergy, and be secure in the "back-up" officiator guarantee.



Wedding Celebrations Can Be Fun Once More! *Current Wedding Ceremony Trends.....An Article.*

A Wedding Ceremony to Remember... Throughout the rise and fall of civilization, wedding ceremonies have invoked pleasurable expectation. In fact, such ancient celebrations would be classified as anything but dull! Historically, wedding guests actually looked forward to days filled with great merriment. The wedding ceremony whether a smaller or larger portion of the celebratory days, was equally anticipated.

Today, many eastern cultures still enjoy the important social occasion of marriage. So why are western ceremonies dull and lifeless? Some answers to this question may be sought in the sociological works addressing the subject of marriage. For the purposes of our reading, the “what to do to change this” is more important. As such, the good news is that there is a growing movement towards the fresh, the exciting, and the innovative in the wedding ceremony. This could mark a happy return toward the revival of the lost art of celebrating marriage. ↓

How then is this being accomplished?

Ceremonies crafted by professional writers are in vogue. This kind of personalization includes the guest, acknowledges their importance in the couple's life and considers the needs, personalities and wit of the bride and groom.

Through Officiators acting as "facilitators", as opposed to "keynote speakers", guests are encouraged to submit their ideas and advice beforehand. Select family members share their well wishes, deliver readings or even co-officiate.

Humor is added, as our traditions from around the world, such as “exchanging of herbs”, “lasso”, “the veil”, “breaking of the glass”, “giving of lucky coins”, “carrying of the horseshoe”, “piping or ringing in the bride”, “wedding bell ringers”, “jumping the broom”, “placing of the crowns”, “the sand ceremony exchange”, “tying the knot”, “giving of the rose”, “sharing of the wine”, “signing of the marriage certificate/or vows”, etc. Or, new family traditions are invented and to be enacted each year on the wedding anniversary. →

Couples are surprising each other with their personal thoughts. New wedding vow exchanging methods are utilized. Wedding guests or parents and grandparents of the bride and groom renew their wedding vows during the wedding ceremony. Even those no longer with us or unable to attend the wedding day are specially honoured. A taped message from someone unable to attend might be played at the beginning of the ceremony, along with their well wishes. Background, processional or recessional music is picked with the generations of attendees in mind – a song from grandmother and grandfather's day as they are escorted to their ceremony seating, etc.

Brides and Grooms with children include them in the ceremony wording or in the giving of a gift or special “children's” vow. A wedding prayer or creed may be specially written and then presented by its writer. Parents of the bride and parents of the groom may be honoured with special words of “thanks”, along with a gift of gratitude. Even, “welcome to the family” gifts are being exchanged by the parent (s) of the bride and the parent (s) of the groom.

There are so many more creative and fun ideas to make the marriage ceremony meaningful and more representative of the bride and groom!

Final Thoughts....

Few Officiators/Clergy or Justice's of the peace are skilled in the development of personalized ceremonies. Likewise, the inclination is just not there for a marriage ceremony presider to write and then learn a new wedding ceremony wording for each bride and groom they are to marry. Years of practice, research and schooling are needed. So, choose your officiator wisely! Certainly become a catalyst by helping to build the momentum of the trend leading back to the idea and practice of joy-filled wedding celebrations. ↓



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TCN Officiators Are Bringing Personality & Warmth & Creativity To The Wedding Ceremony

A Few Things That Make TCN Officiators Not Like Others....

TCN Officiators are multi-degreed career professionals and are pioneers in the art of personalized wedding ceremony writing. Their ceremony wording is not copied from some *over used* ceremony wording book.

TCN career Officiators, didn't *buy their right* to preside over wedding ceremonies, like "mail order/Internet Clergy/Officiator's" do. Presiding is their chosen career.

TCN Officiators are trained in public speech, human event planning, as well as in the writing of public speech presentations, like that of the wedding ceremony.

TCN Officiators offer a service contract and our full-time support staff to answer questions regarding the **TCN** ceremony, marriage license, bride name change and other official subject matter.

TCN Officiators, work in conjunction with other wedding services providers, i.e., D.J, Videographer, etc., making for a coherent team. Pre-ceremony and "day of " coordination is easier when other wedding professionals work with a **TCN** Officiator/Clergy, etc., as we specifically coordinate with each couple's "day of" wedding vendors.

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