



# The Clergy Network

## The Clergy Network Offers Friend Or Family Member Officiator Training For Those Not Having The Legal Right To Preside

### *To Whom Does This Apply?*

To the friend or family member:

- Not having the legal authority to solemnize a wedding ceremony in the State of California

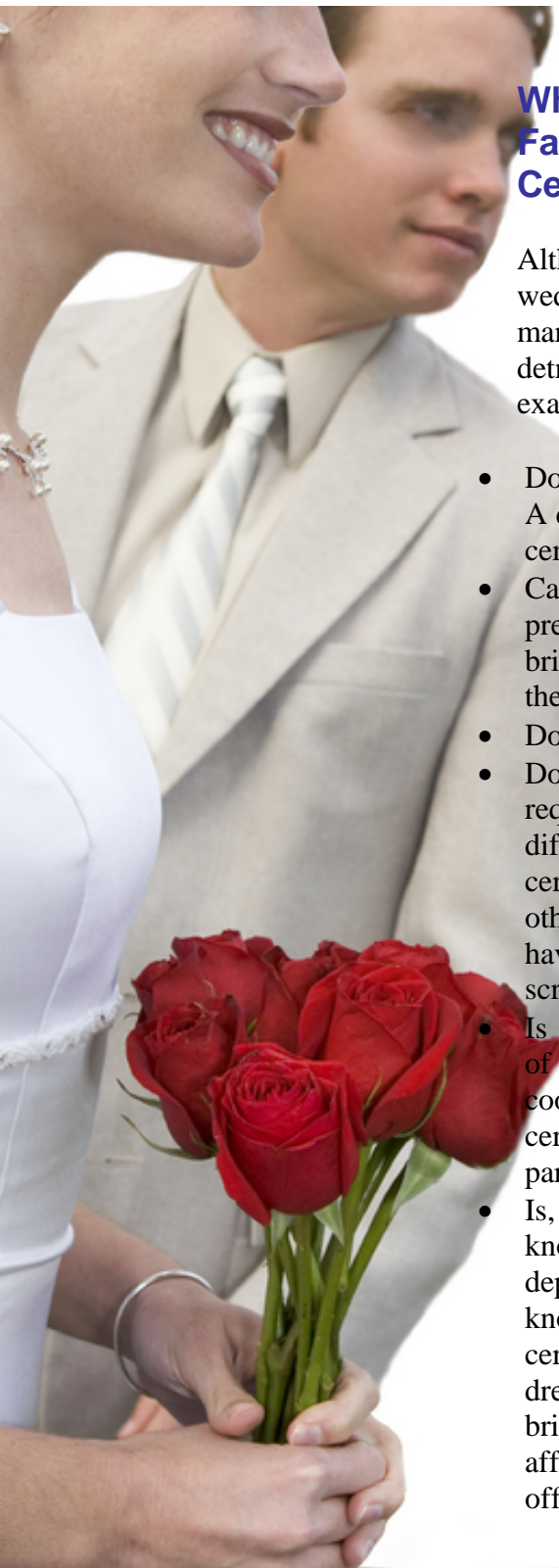
**TCN wedding officiator-trainers hold advanced earned degrees. TCN ownership has trained ministers, clergy & other civil marriage officiators since the 1980's.**

Inclusive of direct instruction from a degreed and experienced TCN officiator-trainer, over 60 pages of marriage ceremony planning checklists are utilized during the training process. TCN's original marriage ceremony and wedding vows materials and on-line software are also employed and licensed for "one-time" use. A TCN officiator-trainer is there on the wedding day to assist and to legalize your marriage after the ceremony is preformed by your friend or family member.

**Please read below as to "why" a friend or family member must be trained to preside over your wedding ceremony. This training package is specifically for that friend or family member not having the legal right to preside.**

TCN teaching staff are trained and experienced in coaching the family member or friend of bride and groom. An untrained wedding officiator, be it friend or family member or other, can lead a bride to tears, culminating in bad wedding day memories. The authority to preside over a wedding ceremony and doing a good job are often two different things. TCN training can help to avoid some of the avoidable.

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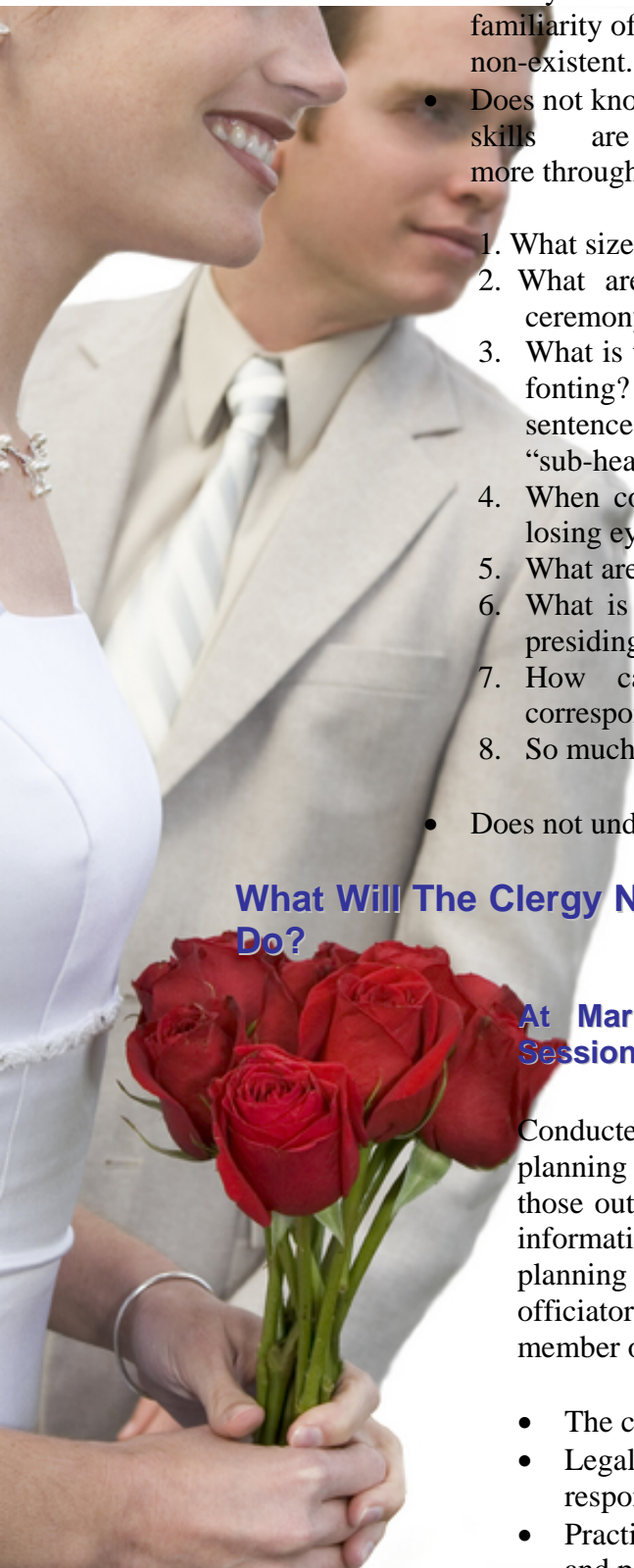
## What Is The Downside Of Having A Friend Or Family Member Perform Your Marriage Ceremony?

Although an honour, presiding over a friend or family member's wedding has its pros and cons. Yes, there are benefits to being married by someone familiar, but even these can become detrimental to the potentially successful marriage ceremony. For example, an **“unauthorized”** officiator friend or family member:

- Does not have the legal right to preside over a marriage ceremony. A duly appointed official **must be** there to solemnize the marriage ceremony.
- Can make a bride and groom more stressed or nervous during the pre-ceremony planning. Causing extra work for all concerned - bride, groom and their friend or family member must learn about the wedding ceremony (planning and presentation).
- Does not provide qualified “back-up” in the event of “cold-feet”
- Does not know how to construct a wedding ceremony – as to legal requirement or presentation protocol. Writing to present orally is different than other kinds of writing. TCN has written wedding ceremony content for television and screen writers, journalists and others skilled in their particular genre of writing. Each of them, have relied on TCN writers to construct their wedding ceremony script.
- Is unable to knowledgably plan important organizational aspects of the wedding ceremony. Officiant planning and organizational coordination, whether pre-ceremony, week-of-wedding, or on the ceremony day are crucial to the bride, groom, and those participating in the marriage ceremony.
- Is, by virtue of “non-training”, not a competent and knowledgeable marriage officiator. A number of people are dependent upon the wedding officiant. What if they are not knowledgeable or competent? In fact, wedding photographers, ceremony musicians, wedding coordinators/planners, etc., often dread working with “deputized” family members or friends of a bride or groom. It makes their job harder, and can negatively affect their professional services. “Hand-holding” the wedding officiant is not part of any other wedding vendor’s job description.



- Does not understand basic ceremony related terminology, needed to communicate with the bride and groom's other wedding ceremony professionals. Time is wasted and miscommunications can occur, when wedding ceremony vendors are not speaking the same language.
- Does not have experience or training in managing technical difficulties. Like, what to do if...
  1. The wedding arch is not grounded properly and about to collapse during the ceremony
  2. A flower girl or ring bearer will not proceed down the wedding aisle or can't stay still during the marriage ceremony
  3. Their microphone frequency is conflicting with its amplification or the videographer's microphone frequency
  4. Their voice cracks during the marriage ceremony presiding.
  5. What to do if there is no microphone. During the ceremony "how" to be heard in the back rows, without shouting.
  6. What to do if the wind kicks up during the ceremony, affecting a microphone without a windscreen.
  7. What to do if there are loud distractions during the ceremony presiding - from lawn blowers, train whistles, planes or helicopters, etc.
  8. Bees or rain drops or wind or a faint wedding attendant is threatening the marriage ceremony's continuation
  9. The bride or groom is overcome with emotion during the ceremony and seemingly unable to proceed
  10. During the wedding ring exchange, due to nervous swelling or heat, a ring suddenly does not fit the bride's or groom's finger
  11. The Unity Candles will not light or stay lit during the marriage ceremony
  12. The marriage license is not present prior to the beginning of the wedding ceremony
  13. So much more.....!
- May feel undue pressure to "not mess anything up". This in turn, can cause even more errors.
- May be so concerned about their part of the wedding day that they become "I centered" or "performance focused", so as to make the bride and groom uncomfortable. During the ceremony, even shifting the spot-light from bride and groom to them self.
- Usually, over compensates during the ceremony with "feeling for the sake of feeling", "humour for humour's sake", or is glued to the text.



In any event, the sincerity, warmth, and feeling ascribed to the familiarity of a family member or friend's presiding is compromised or non-existent.

- Does not know the essential skills of oral presentation. These acquired skills are not taught in schools today, as our society communicates more through visual imagery. A few brief examples:
  1. What size presentation book is best for holding ceremony content?
  2. What are the pros and cons of plastic protection covers on ceremony content pages?
  3. What is the best ceremony formatting option? What is the proper fonting? What is the most "eye friendly" spacing between sentences or segments? What is the most helpful "heading" and "sub-heading" structure?
  4. When conducting the ceremony, what is the best way to avoid losing eye placement?
  5. What are the pro's and con's of ceremony wording memorization?
  6. What is the best oral presentation style for marriage ceremony presiding – dialoguing verses other methods of communicating?
  7. How can words, facial expressions and gestures share corresponding sentiment?
  8. So much more....!
- Does not understand their post-ceremony official duties

## **What Will The Clergy Network Officiant Training Service Help Us Do?**

### **At Marriage Ceremony & Wedding Vows Planning Session**

Conducted by the TCN officiator-trainer, the marriage ceremony planning session is presented in person or via conference call (for those outside Southern California). The bride and groom is given informational software, prior to or at the wedding ceremony planning session. During this session, The Clergy Network officiator-trainer will instruct bride, groom and presiding family member or friend in:

- The construction of the wedding ceremony and marriage vows.
- Legal, procedural and other "official" officiator's responsibilities
- Practical concerns associated with pre-ceremony, on-the-day, and post ceremony coordination



- Technical concerns associated with conducting a wedding ceremony
- Personalized concerns associated with pre-ceremony, on-the-day, and post ceremony coordination

### **During The Months Leading To The Wedding Ceremony Day**

Then, throughout the wedding ceremony and marriage vows planning... the TCN writing team, training officiant and support staff are available to discuss emerging concerns or questions associated with a friend or family member officiator and the wedding ceremony. This communication is accomplished via telephone or e-mail.

### **During The Wedding Week**

A final consultation via phone with TCN officiator-trainer, bride, groom and friend or family member is planned and executed.

### **At The Wedding Rehearsal Or On The Wedding Day**

- A bride and groom can include their TCN officiator-trainer at their wedding rehearsal – a professional helper to the bride, groom & friend or family member presider.
- On the wedding day, the TCN officiator-trainer can be a moral and technical support to the friend or family member conducting the marriage ceremony.
- On the wedding day, TCN officiator-trainer is a reliable “back-up” when the friend or family member “can’t go through with it” or is ill. Familiar with the ceremony planning history, the ceremony itself, the bride and groom, etc, a TCN officiator-trainer can seamlessly “step-in”.
- Since the friend or family member is not “authorized” to legally bind the marriage, the TCN officiator-trainer will do so (after the public ceremony is over). The TCN officiator-trainer will also file the marriage license for recording by the State of California.