

Choosing Your Wedding Officiant

1. How much time will the wedding officiant you are considering spend getting to know you and what you want?
2. How much time do YOU want to spend in the process of planning your wedding with your officiant?
 Less than an hour 1-2 hours As long as it takes As little time as possible
3. Notice how many questions he or she asks you about YOU and what you and your fiancé value. The better the officiant knows you and what you believe in, the more personal your ceremony will be – if “customized and personal” is what you are looking for.
 The officiant seemed very interested in us
 The officiant was more interested in our hiring him or her than in us
4. Did the officiant create the ceremony him or herself? Officiants may use a ceremony they got off the internet. Others have a knack with words and creating meaning.
 Self created Provided by other source From internet ordination service
5. How long do you want your ceremony to be? How long is the officiant’s basic ceremony? (Get specific. Short and long are relative terms)
Us: 5-10 minutes 11-15 minutes 20-25 minutes Over 30 minutes
Officiant: 5-10 minutes 11-15 minutes 20-25 minutes Over 30 minutes
6. Ask the officiant if s/he will mention anything about the issues that are important to you. Examples: the value of commitment, family, communication, growing in your relationship, balancing each other, joy, creativity, your secular, spiritual or religious affiliation.
 Yes No Other _____
7. Does s/he have a religious affiliation? Is s/he spiritual rather than religious? Is s/he open to not mentioning God?
 Religious Spiritual Okay with no mention of God Other _____
8. How long has the celebrant been officiating weddings?
 Less than a year 1-5 years 6-15 years Over 15 years
9. If something happens to the officiant on the day of your wedding, will he or she help find a replacement, or what is your recourse? Has s/he ever missed a wedding? Been late? What happened as a result?
 Will help find replacement Has missed a wedding Has been late

Results: _____

Remember the idiom, “If you think it’s expensive to hire a professional, wait until you hire an amateur.” This is true spiritually and emotionally, also.