

Wedding Ceremony Agreement & Contract

This Agreement, by and between Lara Burke (hereinafter called the Officiant), and _____ and _____, (hereinafter called the Couple) agree as follows:

1. The Officiant shall perform a marriage ceremony for the Couple on

_____, 2021 located at

_____ at

_____ (specify AM or PM)

2. The Officiant warrants that she is a professional Officiant; recognized as a legally ordained minister; fully qualified to officiate weddings in the State of New Jersey.

3. The Officiant will provide the following services for a base fee of \$350. The couple acknowledges that this fee is subject to change if additional selections and customizations are made to the pre-existing ceremony scripts. The couple can make changes up to one week before the ceremony. The officiant will discuss all fees up front. Other fees such as excessive mileage and distance may apply. Payment is due in full at the rehearsal or if no rehearsal, prior to the ceremony.

4. The Officiant will work with the Couple by e-mail, telephone or in person to allow them to prepare or choose their custom service. The base price of a ceremony is \$350 which allows the Couple to choose from a selection of pre-written wedding scripts. If the Couple chooses to customize further, the officiant will provide sample scripts, plus vows, ring exchanges, readings, etc. for the Couple to mix, match and modify to create their own ceremony. The Officiant reserves the right to refuse any service that she is not comfortable performing, at which time a refund may be made to the Couple.

5. Services included in the fee are:

a.) The Officiant shall arrive at the wedding location approximately 30-45 minutes prior to the time of the scheduled service.

b.) Officiant is prepared to dress in the manner that suits the style of your wedding. This will be a one that allows her to present a dignified image in keeping with the character of the right of matrimony. A religious shawl will be worn only by request only. Costumes for the Officiant to wear for theme weddings must be provided and paid for by the Couple.

c.) The ceremony itself and time needed for post-ceremonial photography (if desired) and license signing.

6. The Officiant gives permission to the Couple to use her likeness in any photographs, videos or other recording media in any manner for any purpose they wish. Likewise the Couple gives permission to the Officiant to use their likeness in any photographs, videos or other media for marketing purposes. The Couple also agrees to the use of their first names to appear in conjunction with any media.

7. Additional Fees.

a.) Travel in excess of 25 miles from Lakewood Township in Ocean County, NJ will be charged an additional fee of \$1.00 per mile.

b.) An agreed upon date prior to the ceremony for rehearsal at a rate of \$100 (optional).

c.) Shall the couple wish to have any special add-on ceremonies, they may do so at the rate of \$15 per added element. The couple accepts responsibility for purchasing items needed to perform the ceremony (unity candles, sand, roses, broom, etc.)

d.) Do-Overs - in light of the issues surrounding COVID 19, several couples have had to postpone receptions but still choose to legally marry on their original date. In this case, The Officiant can perform a "Do-over" of the original ceremony at the reception for a fee of \$250. This option is based on Officiants availability on the rescheduled date.

8. The Couple agrees to pay the Officiant the ceremony performance fee as determined by the ceremony selections and fee schedule, as well as additional agreed upon services or unusual travel expenses. To reserve the date, a non-refundable retainer of \$100 shall be remitted with this agreement. Payments can be made in the form of cash, check, paypal, venmo or money order. The remaining balance is due at prior to the ceremony and may be made by cash only.

9. In consideration for these services, the Couple agrees as follows:

a.) The Couple understands that they must obtain a valid marriage license from the appropriate jurisdiction where they reside. If the Couple does not reside in NJ the marriage license must be obtained in the municipality where the ceremony is performed.

b.) the Couple shall provide the valid marriage license to the Officiant to review and execute with 2 witnesses over the age of 18. The Officiant cannot legally perform and will not perform a marriage ceremony without receiving the appropriate valid marriage license prior to the ceremony.

c.) The responsibility of filing this certificate with the appropriate registrar/clerk's office is solely that of the Officiant. The Officiant is legally obligated to return the completed license to the Clerk's Office of the township where the ceremony was performed within 5 days of the wedding ceremony.

d.) This agreement is valid for the wedding service for the place and date stated in this contract. Any change to time, place or date must be agreed to in advance by the Officiant, must be in writing via email and may be subject to additional fees. The Couple realizes that the Officiant performs other ceremonies for other Couples and that excessive lateness or change in time can create a serious conflict in the Officiant's schedule. If the Couple changes the time or date of the scheduled ceremony without the Officiant's consent, or if there are excessive delays that hinder getting to another ceremony on time, the Officiant reserves the right to cancel the performance of the ceremony and shall in no way be held responsible or liable in any manner for such nonperformance, and the deposit made by the Couple will be forfeited.

e.) In the event that the scheduled Officiant is unable to perform the Couple's wedding ceremony due to illness, pandemic illness, hospitalization, accident, transportation breakdown or other unforeseeable causes, she will make every attempt to notify the Couple and arrange for another ordained minister licensed and qualified to perform weddings in the State of New Jersey. In such an event that no substitute is available, the officiant will perform the ceremony at a date prior to or after the reception with the couple acknowledging that this will become the official date of the marriage. If there are no alternatives then all monies paid by the Couple, less the non-refundable deposit, to the Officiant will be returned and the Couple and the Couple hereby agrees that the Officiant will not be held liable for any damages (including punitive) due to the non-performance of the ceremony or function.

f.) The Officiant will not perform a ceremony that violates COVID19 restrictions for her personal safety and that of The Couple and their guest.

10. This agreement and any attachments constitute the entire agreement between the parties and may not be modified except in writing signed by both parties. No other representatives or promises have been made except those that are set out in this agreement. If any part of this agreement is adjudged to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, the remaining parts shall not be affected and shall remain in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS HERE, the parties who have signed and executed this Wedding Ceremony Agreement as of the date stated hereon.

Fiancé 1 _____ Date _____ Print
Name _____

Fiancé 2 _____ Date _____ Print
Name _____

Officiant _____ Date _____ Print
Name _____