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How To Officiate A Non-Denominational Wedding Ceremony



Synopsis

To officiate a wedding ceremony for a couple you know and love is one of life's great honors and delights. When your couple invited you to conduct their ceremony, you felt flattered and excited. Then, a little later, chances are you began to wonder "what did I get myself into? How do I conduct a wedding ceremony? HOW TO OFFICIATE A NON-DENOMINATIONAL WEDDING CEREMONY guides you through every step of the process for writing and delivering a personalized ceremony that is traditional enough in structure to make guests comfortable, yet contemporary in word and substance. Topics include:

- How to personalize the various moments in a ceremony
- How to involve guests and the wedding party
- How to incorporate cultural traditions
- How to introduce and segue various segments
- How to organize for flow and energy
- How to speak with confidence

Bonus Sections include information on:

- Vows
- Rings
- Unity Rituals
- Blessings
- Non-blessings
- Readings and inspiration
- Essential prep and day-of checklists

More than ever before, couples seek the gift of a personalized ceremony that will be a touchstone for their life together. With this one-of-a-kind book, you'll be able to offer such a gift to your special couple. (Note: Book does not contain fully written sample ceremonies)

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

How To Officiate A Non-Denominational Wedding CeremonyI am an experienced presider at weddings, and I'm married to another experienced wedding presider. If you've never presided before at a wedding, look no further for your complete how-to guide. I say this for two reasons: First, Mr. Reynolds has captured all the elements of being a successful presider (he must be a very successful presider himself). Second, he has captured it all in a most readable and enjoyable style. When creating a ceremony with couples, I always try to make it personal to them and incorporate their style(s) and wishes. Mr. Reynolds has shown how to do this, without having to start from the familiar, traditional design. I can say from my experience that the "bonus" sections at the end will be a huge help to the inexperienced presider. I humbly admit that I'll consult this fantastic book the next time I plan a wedding - high praise from someone who's pretty sure he does a great job already!

Recently, I was flattered and honored when a close friend and his fiancé asked me to officiate their upcoming wedding. I was proud to say yes. However, I was unsure of my role because I have never officiated a wedding. Even though I have attended many weddings, I never took the time to "evaluate" the ceremony. I immediately went online to search for help. After viewing many options, I found the complete book to help me. "How To Officiate A Non-Denominational Wedding" authored by J. P. Reynolds is well written and an easy guide to follow a point-by-point overview of the entire process. Plus, J. P. offers many outstanding anecdotes for the wedding experience. It's a must read for everyone involved in planning a wedding!! Richard

On very short notice, I was called to officiate a wedding for my best friend and immediately panicked. I was so touched and honored that the pressure to write a script as moving and beautiful as their relationship overwhelmed me. I would recommend this book to anyone faced with the challenge of performing a wedding, regardless of denomination or setting. In fact, I would recommend that it is the first thing you read because a lot of my other research was discarded for the more concise and practical guidance offered in this book. It helped me brainstorm parts of the couple's relationship that I felt unique to them and that I wanted to highlight throughout their ceremony. I learned the various components and sequences of modern weddings, including various unity rituals [my couple went with handfasting] and opening and closing prayers. It offered a wide range of verbiage so you could make the vows customized and contemporary or traditional ("I do thee wed"). It even offers tips for nontraditional wedding parties that may be missing a father or mother of the bride to walk her/him down the aisle, which I appreciated. I ended up receiving so many compliments on the flow and beauty of the script and how well it fit the bride and groom that I

wasn't just relieved after the ceremony, I felt like a card-carrying professional. It is now several months post-wedding and I was asked by the bride for the full script because it was one of her favorite parts of her wedding day. So I'm getting it turned into a small crafted book that can sit with their wedding album!5 out of 5 stars*****

This past New Year's Eve I married my niece and her husband...yep, me! When they asked me to officiate their ceremony I was surprised and honored. Then reality sunk in and I realized I had no idea what to do! This was the first non-church wedding in our family so I had to be good. My wife happened upon an article Mr. Reynolds wrote for the Huffington Post and I liked what he had to say. Frantic, I bought the book hoping for guidance. The book calmed me, gave me direction and (maybe most importantly?) helped me understand my role as "officiant". By the time I got to the checklists, I knew I could do this! As a result of Mr. Reynold's guidance, I was confident and able to give my niece the meaningful and heartfelt ceremony she wanted. I recommend this book to all nervous uncles--or whomever!

I used this book for my first ceremony this weekend. I married a son to a beautiful young woman. If you have a chance to perform a wedding, just do it. It is a tremendous honor. In addition, I received huge amounts of congratulations. This book will help you do the ceremony. I did his recommended turning of the groom and bride to the crowd so the crowd can hoot and holler their well wishes. It was terrific. The bride, who until that moment, was a basket case of tears, gained her composure back. I can't say enough good things about this book. Get it, read it, and do it.

Wonderful book. I'm getting ready to officiate the marriage between my granddaughter and her one and only. My first experience and I am very proud and very nervous. This book is a wonderful help. It is very well written with plenty of advice and counsel. Along with the details, I am trying also to remember his general advice; don't be too long, don't be preachy and be concerned about the atmosphere that is created. I am looking forward to a wonderful evening for the bride and groom, the family and guests and for me.

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