



Rev. Marion Koleski

*Wedding Officiant
(269) 492-9986*



About Rev. Marion Koleski

Ordained in 2002, Marion's signature laid-back attitude keeps things running smoothly. Keeping you and your wedding a happy and relaxed affair is her focus. Large or small venue, simple or complex ceremony, she's happy to handle it all with a big smile.

Frequently Asked Questions

So... How does all this go? Do we need to meet?

We can meet and do an interview, but that is considered a consultation and there is a fee. It simply became cost prohibitive to drive all over meeting couples that may or may not book me.

The simplest and least expensive way to handle the arrangements is this...

- ◦You email me an inquiry.
- ◦I respond and let you know I am free on that date. I email you a contract.
- ◦You mail back the contract with non-refundable deposit. That locks in your date.
- ◦We start emailing back and forth a few weeks before your ceremony. Between us, we compile your ceremony script.
- ◦Rehearsal: I can be there, or I can send a stand-in if I have a conflict, or you can do without.
- ◦Wedding day: I arrive an hour early, collect the unpaid balance (cash or money order only please), check your ID's, sign your license, and perform your ceremony.
- ◦After: I send your marriage license back to the appropriate county clerk and provide you with information on changing your name with the Secretary of State and Social Security Administration.
- ◦You live happily ever after. As do I.



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Will I need sound equipment for my ceremony?

If you have less than 100 guests, we probably will not need sound equipment. However, if your wedding is larger, or outside, we'll probably need a little help so everyone can hear clearly. If your DJ is unable to set up your wedding site, I can bring a lectern with me that has built in speakers and runs on battery power. That is rented equipment at a charge of \$75.

How long will my ceremony be?

Most ceremonies last around 15-20 minutes. I know, it seems so short! But a ceremony with one reading and a unity candle or sand ceremony only takes about 15 minutes or so. However, by the time it's all said and done, you can plan on leaving the church about an hour after your start time.

I've done some comparison shopping, and it seems like all the officiants are in the same range, but it seems kind of high for a 20 minute ceremony. Why is that?

Oh, if only it were as simple as a 20 minute ceremony. These are just some of the costs of "doing business":

Religious and marriage education

Professional attire

Mileage, gas

Advertising

Website design, maintenance, and hosting

Association fees

Time, time, and more time. Beyond the time invested in learning, time planning, time writing, time away from our families, each wedding requires approximately 15 hours of work. Wedding ministries are a wonderful, fun, and heartwarming thing to do, but they are by no means a cash cow.

What about you? What is your religion? How long have you been doing this? Where is your church? Is this all you do, or do you have another job?

I am a non-denominational minister, ordained in 2002. I consider myself a student, rather than a teacher, of religions and philosophy. I do not have a church, but rather an online ministry that serves the military community. I have a husband and two daughters.



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More FAQ - (based on theknot.com's suggested list)

Is the officiant available on your date?

Please check the online calendar at www.marionkoleski.com. Keep in mind that whatever contract and deposit arrives first, "locks in" a date. Sending your contract in quickly will eliminate concerns of double-booking.

Having a short-notice wedding? Feel free to give me a call even if you are working on a short time schedule. I am usually able to work something out.

What documents should you bring to the first meeting?

Actually, you don't need anything. I will check to make sure your driver's license matches your wedding license before I sign it.

Is the officiant open to personalized vows, readings, poems, or music?

Totally. However, the "bottom line" should be serious. It's fine to promise to love each other through football playoffs and PMS, but it should be clear that you take your vows seriously.

Will the officiant give a sermon or speech?

If you would like.

What kind of pre-wedding counseling is required, if any?

Premarital classes are available (for a fee), but not required.

What is the ceremony fee?

Fees are listed below.

Are there any restrictions on the type of music you can play or on the readings?

They should not be vulgar, other than that, it is up to you.

Will the officiant offer input on your vows and proposed readings?

Sure, if you need help!

Will you have input on the sermon and/or hear it in advance?

Absolutely. You will get a copy by email before the day of your ceremony.



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Is there a dress code?

Nope. It's up to you. While I'm game for theme weddings, such as Renaissance Fair etc, I will not participate in "skyclad" (nude) weddings. You may request what level of formal attire I wear for your wedding.

Can the officiant help you deal with family conflicts connected to the ceremony?

Conflict resolution services are limited, and fall under the same fee schedule as premarital education.

Should you bring your marriage license to the ceremony, or will you sign it before the wedding?

Bring it with you to the wedding. Usually we will sign it a little while before the ceremony.

***Can you have a videographer and photographer in the sanctuary/ceremony room?
Is flash photography allowed?***

That's up to you. I don't mind it at all.

Are there any restrictions on tossing items (rice, petals, bird seed)?

This is subject to the rules at your venue.

When should the rehearsal be held?

Usually a day or two before the wedding. When I have more than one wedding booked in a weekend, your rehearsal may fall at a time when I have another wedding. If you would like, I can provide a stand-in who will walk you through your rehearsal.

Would the officiant (and his/her spouse) like to come to the reception and rehearsal dinner?

I do not generally attend rehearsal dinners and receptions. Once your wedding is done, I have my own family to get home to. However, if it is important to you, it can be arranged.



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Services, Fees and Deposits

Pre-marital Education: \$50 per 30 minute session.

Marriage isn't easy, and the more tools you have in your toolbox, the better equipped you are to handle little breakdowns before they become serious. Premarital education is available, but is not a requirement to be married by Rev. Marion. To take place at Rev. Marion's home office. Includes materials. Other locations will involve a separate fee for travel.

Wedding rehearsal: \$100

Includes two run-throughs of your ceremony, or approximately one hour. Additional time is billed at \$50 per hour.

Deposit: \$100

To be mailed in with signed contract. Please note, this deposit is necessary to reserve your date and is NON-refundable.

Wedding Ceremony: \$100-600

Price depends on length, location, and complexity of ceremony. Please speak with Rev. Marion for more specific information. Price includes filing your marriage license with the appropriate agency with delivery confirmation.

Sound equipment: \$75

Depends on complexity of the setup. Price includes standard "one speaker, two microphones" setup. Check with your DJ and venue first to see if they can provide the equipment -- many will for a small fee or no fee!



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Wedding Contract

Bride's Name: _____

Groom's Name: _____

Couple's Address: _____

Couple's Contact Number: _____

Rehearsal Date: _____ Time: _____ AM PM

Location/Address: _____

Wedding Date: _____ Time: _____ AM PM

Location/Address: _____

This agreement, made between Rev. Marion Koleski (known in this contract as "the Minister") and the above named Bride and Groom known in this (contract as "the Couple") is for the purpose of retaining Minister to perform a wedding ceremony on the Couple's behalf.

1. Minister agrees to provide wedding services to above named Couple on the date and at the location listed above.

2. Minister agrees to provide wedding rehearsal services to above named Couple on the date and at the location listed above. ~ OR ~ Initial here is rehearsal services are not requested:

2. If the Minister is unfamiliar with the chosen location of the ceremony, the Couple agrees to supply detailed directions to location at least 2 (two) weeks prior to set date. Information may be provided via email, or sent in written form via the postal service.

3. The total agreed upon fee for this service is: \$_____

4. A non-refundable deposit of \$100 is due to the Minister upon the signing of this agreement to hold the above date and time for the Couple; and to release sample ceremonies and vows for Couple's review.



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5. The balance of \$_____ will be due at the rehearsal OR on the day of the ceremony; in the form of CASH or MONEY ORDER to be presented to the Minister in an envelope along with the marriage license. Failure to pay the above stated compensation in full when due, will release the Minister from furnishing any services to the Couple under this Agreement.
6. Minister agrees to be available for the Couple to provide support and guidance during the prep and planning stages by email or telephone; until the conclusion of the actual ceremony performed. Likewise, the Couple agrees to be available to the Minister for whatever purpose deemed necessary for the completion of the written ceremony.
7. Minister agrees to perform the ceremony in a professional and respectful manner, in accordance to the ceremony plan chosen by the Couple. The Couple likewise agrees to acknowledge the services being provided by the Minister, in a dignified and respectful manner.
8. The Couple understands that all photographs and/or videos taken during and/or after their ceremony by the Minister's staff are purely NON- PROFESSIONAL, and authorize the use of such photos in promotional material for the Minister's use without restriction or compensation.
9. In the event that the Minister is unable to attend the rehearsal, a qualified assistant will be made available to run your rehearsal.
10. In the unlikely event that the Minister is unable to perform the ceremony for whatever reason, the Minister will make every effort to find a qualified substitute replacement. In the unlikely event that a replacement cannot be found, the Minister will make a full refund of any deposit paid by the Couple; however, the Couple agrees that the refund will be the full extent of damages they are entitled to, and no further damages may be sought against the Minister or any affiliated persons.
11. This contract will lock in the Minister to the Couple's date and time of ceremony; henceforth blocking the Minister from booking another Couple on same date and time. For this purpose; if for any reason a decision is made not to use the services of the Minister after retainment by deposit, the Couple must inform the Minister in writing at least 30 (thirty) days prior to the ceremony date to release the Couple from this contract. If the Couple fails to provide such notice, the Couple agrees to be responsible for ½ of the Minister's balance due as stated in number 5 (five) of this contract.
12. If the wedding is cancelled less than 7 (seven) days before the set ceremony date, for whatever reason, the Couple agrees to be responsible for Minister's full agreed upon balance due as stated in number 5 (five) of this contract.
13. This contract, once signed by either bride –OR- groom, is considered by all within to be legal and binding in accordance to the conditions set forth herein, and all shall abide by the agreed upon terms.



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Signature: _____ Date: _____
BRIDE

Signature: _____ Date: _____
GROOM

Signature: _____ Date: _____
MINISTER

Mail completed contract to:

Rev. Marion Koleski

10123 Roger Street

Portage, MI 49002