

An equal opportunity employer

Michelle L. Werner

Houston County Recorder – Registrar of Titles
Abstract of Title – Vitals
304 S. Marshall Street, Room 111
Caledonia, MN 55921

Phone (507) 725-5813
E-mail: recorder@co.houston.mn.us
www.co.houston.mn.us

Amy Molling, Deputy

On July 1, 2010 the Minnesota marriage laws had several changes take affect. The change that has caused confusion is in regard to the **Educator's Statement**. This is the document that comes from you so that couples may receive a “**REDUCED MARRIAGE FEE**” license. For your convenience, I have enclosed a copy of the form that you can use for this purpose. This form **must** be completed on your **church letterhead**. The names of the bride and groom must be their full, **complete names** (including middle name, not initials). It also needs to be either marked with the **church seal or notarized**. The **original** must then be presented to this office at the time that the couple applies for their marriage license. If any part of the form is not completed correctly, we will be unable to accept it for the reduced fee. The couple may choose to return the form to you for corrections or they will be required to pay the full fee. As of this date, the fee for a marriage license in Minnesota is \$115.00 and the reduced fee is \$40.00.

Also enclosed, please find a copy of the Houston County Marriage License Application Policy. Please feel free to make copies of this and distribute them to couples that you are in contact with that are planning a wedding.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact this office. We will be happy to assist you.

EDUCATOR'S STATEMENT

(MS 517.08 subd 1)

Requirements of Educator's Statement are set out in statute and are as follows:

- a. Must be on the Educator's Letterhead
- b. Educator's signature must be notarized
- c. Must have completed 12 hours of education (not completing or are taking)
- d. Educators Statement must be presented at time of application, No refunds given
- e. Education must be provided by a licensed or ordained minister or designee authorized to solemnize marriages under MS 517.18 or licensed to practice marriage and family therapy under MS 148B.33
- f. Local Registrar must retain Educator's Statement for 7 years
- g. Legal Names of both the Bride and Groom must be on Educator's statement and these names must be identical to the names on the marriage application

Statute specifically requires the following wording be used on the Educator's Statement

The statement from the person who provided the premarital education under paragraph (b) must be in the following form: "I, (name of educator), confirm that (names of both parties) received at least 12 hours of premarital education that included the use of a premarital inventory and the teaching of communication and conflict management skills. I am a licensed or ordained minister, a person authorized to solemnize civil marriages under Minnesota Statutes, section 517.18, or a person licensed to practice marriage and family therapy under Minnesota Statutes, section 148B.33."

MS 517.08 Subd 1b (b)(c)

(b) The marriage license fee for parties who have completed at least 12 hours of premarital education is \$40. In order to qualify for the reduced license fee, the parties must submit at the time of applying for the marriage license a statement that is signed, dated, and notarized or marked with a church seal from the person who provided the premarital education on their letterhead confirming that it was received. The premarital education must be provided by a licensed or ordained minister or the minister's designee, a person authorized to solemnize marriages ~~6~~under section 517.18, or a person authorized to practice marriage and family therapy under section 148B.33. The education must include the use of a premarital inventory and the teaching of communication and conflict management skills. (c) ***The statement from the person who provided the premarital education under paragraph (b) must be in the following form: "I, (name of educator), confirm that (names of both parties) received at least 12 hours of premarital education that included the use of a premarital inventory and the teaching of communication and conflict management skills. I am a licensed or ordained minister, a person authorized to solemnize civil marriages under Minnesota Statutes, section 517.18, or a person licensed to practice marriage and family therapy under Minnesota Statutes, section 148B.33."*** The names of the parties in the educator's statement must be identical to the legal names of the parties as they appear in the marriage license application. Notwithstanding section 138.17, the educator's statement must be retained for seven years, after which time it may be destroyed.