

# Short and Sweet Ceremonies

## RATES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS

<b>My Officiant Base Fee Schedule (non-refundable)</b>	
LOCAL CEREMONY at your chosen location within Olympia, Lacey, or Tumwater	<b>\$350 +</b>
QUICK NO-FRILLS ELOPEMENT or SIGN & GO: You and your 2 witnesses meet at Officiant's location to your sign marriage paperwork (no groups!)	<b>\$300</b>
ELOPE AT THE BEACH in ...OCEAN SHORES, WESTPORT, GRAYLAND, TOKELAND	<b>\$450 +</b>
...SEABROOK, PACIFIC BEACH, OCEAN CITY, MOCLIPS, HOODSPORT,	<b>\$550 +</b>
...LAKE QUINAULT, TACOMA WATERFRONT – RUSTON/POINT DEFIANCE/OWEN BEACH	<b>\$650 +</b>
...SPACE NEEDLE, SNOQUALMIE FALLS, SEQUIM, PORT TOWNSEND, PORT ANGELES	<b>\$700 +</b>
...BLAINE, FORKS/KALALOCH, RIALTO/RUBY BEACH, SOL DUC, ALDER LAKE, MT RAINIER NP, MT ST HELENS NP, OLYMPIC NP, LAKE CRESCENT, HOH RAINFOREST	<b>\$1,000 +</b>
...SAN JUAN ISLANDS, BLAINE PEACE ARCH, CANNON BEACH, NEAH BAY, OZETTE LAKE	<b>\$1,500 +</b>
<p>Base fee schedule. Precise rates vary. For a precise rate quote including anticipated add-on fees – if any, please provide your precise ceremony date, time, location address as well as any obstacles or conditions to reach your ceremony location. If you are getting married in Washington, you must obtain a Washington marriage license. If you are getting married in Oregon, an Oregon marriage license, etc. Weddings require you to have 2 witnesses and a valid marriage license. Obtain your marriage license directly from the county. Ask two of your best friends to serve as witnesses for you! After your wedding ceremony, state law requires the Officiant to record your marriage health certificate with the county auditor of issue within 30 days. Unless expedited service is requested in advance, I shall mail the marriage health certificate via USPS w/tracking and provide you a tracking number. For local Thurston County marriage licenses only, I record the marriage health certificate in person ASAP at the Thurston Auditor's office at no additional charge. Expedite fee applies only if requested for other counties. Rates/fees are non-refundable.</p>	
<b>ADD-ON FEES to be determined on case-by-case basis:</b>	
<b>TRAVEL FEE</b> – The travel fee varies, depending on travel distance from Officiant's home to ceremony rehearsal and/or ceremony location, peak travel, as well as any non-paved road driving and walking/hiking requirements to reach final ceremony location.	<b>\$50 to \$350</b>
<b>CEREMONY REHEARSALS</b> – Officiant is not required to attend your rehearsals. Typically, that is for you to practice your processional/recessional with your bridal party. But if you would like your Officiant to attend your ceremony rehearsal, ask at time of booking so it can be arranged. (Up to 1-hour increments). If ceremony location is remote, a 2nd travel fee may apply.	<b>\$100/hour</b>
<b>EXTRA TIME</b> – Ceremony delays, late starts, or delays in signing marriage paperwork after the ceremony ends (up to 30-minute increments (minor 5-minute delays are common and are never an issue)	<b>\$50/30min</b>
<b>PARKING and DAY USE FEES</b> for city, state, or national parks; ferries/trains; road tolls; valet parking, etc.	<b>TBD</b>
<b>HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS FOR OFFICIANT</b> – Booking a hotel near your ceremony location may become necessary depending on travel distance, ceremony start time, inclement weather, travel conditions, and/or time of year. Paying for my hotel accommodation is not automatically required for every remote location but is a possibility. If you let me know specific details of your ceremony, I can make the determination and let you know.	<b>TBD</b>
<b>EXPEDITED - MAILING.</b> After your wedding ceremony, the Officiant can <b>FedEx or UPS Ground</b> your marriage health certificate back to county auditor's office for recording. Sent w/tracking which is provided to you. Once recorded, you obtain certified copies directly from the auditor.	<b>\$50-\$100</b>
<b>EXPEDITED - IN PERSON.</b> After your wedding ceremony, the Officiant can drive to the county auditor of issue to record your marriage health certificate in person and notify you when this is completed. <i>No extra fee for recording local Thurston County marriage certificates in person.</i>	<b>TBD</b>

## **BOOKING OFFICIANT SERVICES CONSTITUTES YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF ALL RATES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

**RATES/TERMS/CONDITIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE:** Full payment locks in any rate. All rates/fees are non-refundable. The rates and terms in place at the time of booking confirmation are what we shall abide by. The purpose of this document is to protect the “Couple” and the “Officiant” and to help avoid any misunderstanding, to understand our respective roles/duties/responsibilities, and to understand how bookings, payments, change requests, cancellations/no-shows, refunds, etc., shall be handled. THE GOAL: clear communication, no surprises, full transparency.

- 1. RATES:** See “My Officiant Base Fee Schedule” above. Payment is due in full at the time of booking unless other payment arrangements are approved in writing by the Officiant. “TBD” = to be determined. The Couple agrees to pay for or reimburse any reasonable travel expense that the Officiant must incur in order to reach and perform their ceremony as planned, including ferry/train, bridge tolls, parking, and any necessary hotel cost if there is to be a sunrise or a sunset ceremony in a remote location. If a hotel is necessary, the Officiant will inform the Couple of the exact cost as soon as possible. The ADD-ON FEES may be invoiced separately by the Officiant, depending on the situation, in which case payment would be immediately.
- 2. REHEARSALS:** Wedding rehearsals are for the Couple and their wedding party to practice the processional and recessional and it is not necessary for the Officiant to attend the rehearsal in order to officiate the ceremony. However, if you want the Officiant to attend your rehearsal, it can be arranged. This date/time is also based on availability and shall be an additional \$100 per hour. If the rehearsal is in a remote location on a different day from the ceremony, a second travel fee shall apply. Be sure to mention/discuss any rehearsal requirements when making your initial booking request.
- 3. BOOKING DATES/TIMES are on a first come, first served basis. Once you have booked me as your Officiant and I have CONFIRMED your requested date/time, our agreement/contract begins.** All dates/times are subject to the Officiant’s availability. Failure to make full payment, failure to timely respond to invoices, failure to timely respond to messages from the Officiant will result in the cancellation of any tentatively confirmed date/time and deletion from the Officiant’s appointment calendar. Please do not book Officiant services until you are sure of the date/time and location.
- 4. LOCAL vs REMOTE LOCATION: Any venue within Lacey, Olympia, or Tumwater is considered local. All others are considered remote and travel fees shall apply.** If the precise ceremony location is “off the beaten path” that is, if it requires Officiant to travel on unpaved roads, gravel or dirt forestry roads, beach driving, or walking/hiking any distance from a designated paved parking lot, etc., this also constitutes a remote location. No surprises. The Couple shall inform Officiant of the precise date, start time, and location where the ceremony is to be held so that Officiant may locate via GPS as well as the specific ceremony conditions to help determine whether local or remote, whether travel fees apply, and whether or not a hotel room is necessary for the Officiant.
- 5. WHEN IS PAYMENT DUE?** Full payment is due at the time of booking to reserve a date/time on the Officiant’s calendar unless other payment arrangements are made in writing by the Officiant via email. Add-on fees will be discussed and may be invoiced separately after the ceremony, depending on the situation and payment is due immediately. All payments are non-refundable.
- 6. ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF PAYMENT.** Cash is always preferred. A local check is also acceptable. \$40 NSF fee applies. Make checks payable to Short and Sweet Ceremonies / Carmen Lane LLC. Any payments via credit card must be arranged and paid in advance and will incur 3.5% fee to cover processing.

- 7. COMMUNICATION IS KEY.** To avoid confusion or misunderstanding, the Officiant and Couple shall communicate as needed via phone, text, or email regarding the ceremony, and agree to promptly respond to each other. For any emergencies, the Officiant agrees to be telephoned by Couple even late at night at (360) 280-0888. Leave a detailed voice message if it goes to voice message and follow up with an email to [Carmen-Lane@comcast.net](mailto:Carmen-Lane@comcast.net). When sending text messages, be sure to include your full names so the Officiant knows who text is from.
- 8. NON-DENOMINATIONAL OFFICIANT & CEREMONY:** I am a non-denominational Wedding Officiant. I am an ordained minister from Universal Life Church Monastery in Seattle, Washington. I have a lovely short and sweet wedding ceremony script which still allows for Couples to include their own personal wedding vows if they wish. I will ask if you have anything further you wish to say before declaring you married. **If Couple has specific verbiage that they want Officiant to include** in their ceremony, Couple must provide it to the Officiant at time of booking or well in advance of ceremony – at least two weeks prior. For quick, no-frills elopements or “Sign and Go” at Officiant’s location, a standard ceremony verbiage such as “Do you choose \_\_\_ as your husband/wife/partner/ lifelong companion?” shall be used.
- 9. A VALID MARRIAGE LICENSE and TWO LEGAL WITNESSES ARE REQUIRED:** It is the sole responsibility of the wedding Couple to provide the Officiant a valid Washington State marriage license (if getting married in Washington) and to provide two adults 18+ to serve as their witnesses at their wedding, and all parties shall sign the marriage paperwork promptly following the ceremony. The Officiant shall arrive prior to the ceremony start time to review marriage paperwork and all parties agree the ceremony shall begin on time and will sign the marriage paperwork promptly so that Officiant may depart promptly. It is the responsibility of the Couple to ensure their portions of their marriage health certificate are correctly filled out *including Social Security Number information on the back of the form*. The Officiant will complete the Officiant sections and will instruct parties where to sign. If the Couple presents the Officiant with what is determined to be an invalid or expired marriage license, the ceremony will revert to an unofficial commitment ceremony, rather than a legal wedding ceremony. **IDEALLY, YOUR TWO LEGAL WITNESSES FOR YOUR MARRIAGE SHOULD BE ADULTS 18 YEARS OR OLDER WHOM YOU PERSONALLY KNOW SUCH AS YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS, FRIENDS, WORK COLLEAGUES, OR NEIGHBORS – RATHER THAN PERFECT STRANGERS.** However, for impromptu elopements at the beach, etc., or instances where the wedding Couple is not from the area and/or Couple does not already have two legal witnesses in attendance for their wedding, it is possible for the Couple to ask tourists/strangers to volunteer to witness their wedding ceremony. In general, people are good and kind in this world. My experience is that most people are willing and happy to help a wedding Couple in the name of Love, and so finding impromptu volunteer witnesses are a very happy occurrence. I have asked hotel staff and baristas to be witnesses for couples. The Officiant makes no promise or guarantee to provide or locate witnesses for the ceremony, but we shall all try our best.
- 10. RECORDING THE MARRIAGE HEALTH CERTIFICATE WITH THE COUNTY OF ISSUE:** After the wedding ceremony and signing of the marriage paperwork, the Officiant retains the marriage license and mails the marriage health certificate back to the county of origin (usually the auditor’s office) for recording within 30 days or as rules direct. Certified copies of the recorded marriage health certificate are to be obtained by the Couple directly from the county of issue, if desired. Duty/responsibility of the Officiant ends after performing the ceremony and sending the completed marriage health certificate to the county of issue for recording, as rules instruct. After the wedding, some Couples who are in a rush to obtain certified copies from the county may request to take possession of it themselves and bring their marriage health certificate to be recorded by the county in person so they may receive certified copies faster. Such a request will not be refused by the Officiant. If a Couple takes their marriage health certificate from Officiant after their ceremony, the Officiant will note it on the marriage license and Couple assumes responsibility for recording it with the county of issue in a timely fashion. In this case, duty/responsibility of the Officiant ends after performing the ceremony. The Officiant bears no responsibility for any individual’s deliberate or

unintentional failure to record a marriage health certificate timely with the county of issue. The Officiant and Couple shall cooperate fully with the County and will follow instructions of the county and ALL PARTIES SHALL BE HELD HARMLESS. FAILURE TO RECORD THE MARRIAGE HEALTH CERTIFICATE WITH THE COUNTY OF ISSUE CAUSE ISSUES, DELAYS, OR ADDED EXPENSE FOR THE WEDDING COUPLE! The county may require the Couple to request in writing to have their original marriage health certificate to reissued/re-printed and then re-signed by all parties: the Wedding Couple, their 2 legal Witnesses who attended the original wedding ceremony, as well as the Wedding Officiant. The marriage date would stay the same; the new signing date would be the date the certificate is re-signed by all parties. NOTE: If the two original legal witnesses are not available to re-sign, it is possible the county may require the Couple to purchase another marriage license with another 3-day waiting period, and re-do the marriage ceremony altogether with Officiant and 2 other legal witnesses. This is why having 2 legal witnesses and the recording of the marriage health certificate is critical.

- 11. DATE/TIME/LOCATON CHANGE REQUESTS:** Officiant is willing to work with the Couple to help meet the change requirement if possible. All changes are subject to the availability of the Officiant. All date/time/location changes must be made in writing to the Officiant a minimum of 14 days in advance and must be approved by the Officiant. It is possible the new date/time may not be available. Changing from a local ceremony to a remote location is subject to approval by the Officiant and additional travel fee shall apply. If Couple is changing to any extreme type of ceremony – skydiving, any hiking or climbing, scuba, etc., the ceremony and signing of the marriage paperwork shall take place immediately before or immediately after the Couple's extreme activity as time and conditions permit.
- 12. REFUND POLICY: Officiant rates and fees are all 100% non-refundable.**
- 13. HOTEL ACCOMODATION:** The Officiant may require hotel accommodation for travel to ceremonies at Couple's remote chosen location, depending on how far the Officiant must travel in order to reach the ceremony location AND the time of day the ceremony is to begin. For example, say you have requested a sunrise or a sunset wedding ceremony at Olympic National Park, Mount Rainier, Mount St. Helens, or any other remote location AND you wish to have Officiant attend your rehearsal the day before. It is possible 1-2 nights accommodation may be needed. Be sure to discuss with the Officiant when booking Officiant services for a remote location and whether you require Officiant to attend any rehearsal.
- 14. MAXIMUM TIME ALLOTTED FOR CEREMONIES INCLUDING SIGNING OF MARRIAGE PAPERWORK:** All ceremonies are short and sweet as the name implies. **A FIFTY (50) MINUTE MAXIMUM** time limit applies for ceremonies from the time the Officiant arrives on site at the Couple's chosen location to review the marriage paperwork before the ceremony, to the signing and review of the marriage paperwork by the Couple and their 2 witnesses after the ceremony concludes. Actual length of a ceremony depends on whether the Couple has a formal wedding processional; how many adults, children, pets, etc., are in the processional; length of the Couple's personal vows if they are writing their own vows; extra rituals, songs, or readings the Couple has decided to include. Any extra time would be at an additional cost as indicated in the fee schedule at the top of the first page of this document. **And a THIRTY (30) MINUTE MAXIMUM** time limit applies for quick no-frills elopements and "Sign & Go" options at the Officiant's chosen location, to perform a quick ceremony (if desired) and to complete/sign and review the marriage paperwork. Any extra time would be at an additional cost as indicated in the fee schedule at the top of the first page of this document.
- 15. LATE STARTS: Minor delays are quite common and shall not affect a Couple's ceremony.** But delays of 10-15 minutes or more past the scheduled/agreed upon ceremony start time will have an impact. The Couple should communicate to the Officiant whether they wish to abbreviate their ceremony to fit into the scheduled time or pay

an add-on fee for additional time. Any extra time would be at an additional cost as indicated in the fee schedule at the top of the first page of this document. The Officiant will grant additional time so long as it does not negatively impact the Officiant's next appointments that day. Otherwise, if left to the Officiant's discretion or if Couple does not wish to pay for additional time, the wedding ceremony may be abbreviated to fit into the maximum time allocated. The Officiant strives to arrive early for ceremonies to allow time to review the marriage paperwork. In the unlikely event the Officiant arrives late due to unforeseen circumstances including GPS issues, traffic, weather, etc., the Officiant will notify the Couple ASAP and ceremony will proceed as planned upon Officiant's arrival.

- 16. NO SHOWS: No shows = no refund.** Your time is valuable and so is mine. Communication is key. If a Couple fails to show up at the agreed upon location at the agreed upon date/time without first notifying the Officiant in advance to reschedule, this will result in a Time Fee, Travel Fee. If payment has already been made, no shows will result in a forfeiture of any money paid. No refund shall be issued. Officiant may wait up to 30 minutes for the Couple to appear and if they do not, the Officiant will return home. To avoid issues, please communicate with your Officiant.
- 17. EXTRA CEREMONY / COMMITMENT RITUALS:** You may include hand-fasting, candle-lighting, or sand pouring rituals in the ceremony, or a song or a reading by a friend. Any extra rituals must be discussed well in advance with the Officiant. There is no extra cost for these rituals to be included in the ceremony unless it becomes a time issue.
- 18. CEREMONY PROPS:** The Couple shall provide Officiant with any necessary props, tools, or equipment they may require for their ceremony and instruct Officiant in their use, if necessary. For example, if a Couple has requested hand-fasting, candle-lighting, or sand pouring rituals, Couple will provide their own silk cords/ribbons, candles, lighters, table, décor, etc., and any speakers or microphones, if necessary. If Couple prefers to have a friend or family member conduct the hand-fasting or other ceremonial ritual add-on, the Officiant is happy to step aside to accommodate and may declare the Couple married at the conclusion and proceed with signing and review of the marriage paperwork afterwards.
- 19. FORCE MAJURE or ACT OF GOD and HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT: Couples who are planning huge, elaborate, expensive weddings/receptions involving multiple vendors may wish to hire a formal wedding coordinator and purchase special event insurance to help protect their investment against the unforeseen.** Check out the vendor suggestions on the Short and Sweet Ceremonies website [www.ShortandSweetCeremonies.com](http://www.ShortandSweetCeremonies.com) for some wedding insurance suggestions, or Google it, or simply ask your existing insurance provider for a recommendation. In the unlikely event Short and Sweet Ceremonies, Carmen Lane LLC is incapacitated to the point where Officiant is unable to officiate the ceremony and must cancel for any reason, Officiant will notify Couple as soon as possible and will of course provide 100% refund of all monies paid to the Officiant, and the Couple agrees to hold Short and Sweet Ceremonies, Carmen Lane LLC, and the Officiant harmless in the event of any unexpected ceremony cancellations. Any damages or claims by the Couple are limited to a refund of the monies the Couple has paid to the Officiant. If same unforeseen circumstance (such as road closure, road construction, inclement weather, etc., affects both Officiant and Couple and prevents parties from reaching the ceremony location or holding the ceremony at the agreed date/time, the Officiant and wedding Couple may work together to find another mutually agreeable location/date/time, if possible, to perform the marriage ceremony before the marriage license expires. Communication is key.
- 20. BUTTERFLIES / PRE-WEDDING JITTERS ARE OKAY, INTOXICATION IS NOT.** Wedding Couple must be able to give their consent during the ceremony – validity of a marriage may depend on it. Please refrain from significant celebratory drinking or substance smoking/vaping or consuming edibles, etc., until after your ceremony and marriage paperwork signing is completed. Appreciate the importance of remaining sober and mentally “present” for your big day. The Officiant shall not intentionally perform a marriage ceremony for intoxicated people and the



Couple shall bear any and all costs and responsibility associated with any delays as a result, should it occur. Short and Sweet Ceremonies, Carmen Lane LLC and the Officiant shall bear no responsibility whatsoever for challenges to the validity of the marriage. A wedding is an exciting and sometimes stressful time for a Couple. It can be an emotional rollercoaster. Feelings of butterflies in the stomach, pre-wedding jitters, and nervousness are all completely normal. As your Officiant, I am happy to take a moment to chat with you or give you a few moments to breathe, calm down, and collect yourself before beginning your ceremony. If we have already begun and you feel like you need me to pause for a moment for any reason, or if you need to sit down, just whisper to me and let me know. I can say something off the cuff and we can resume when you are ready. This is your special day and I want to go at your pace. If you are nervous about not knowing what to say or what to do when the time comes, please don't worry. As the Officiant, I will try to be attuned to you both, watching you closely, and guiding you step by step throughout your ceremony, so that you know when it is time to pass the flowers, when to hold hands, what to say, when to place the ring, when to kiss. I will do my best to help you any way that I can.

- 21. THE KISS:** After I pronounced you “married” or at the conclusion of your ceremony, I try to step aside to get out of the way of your family/friends or perhaps a hired wedding photographer who may be trying earnestly to capture your “first kiss”. Photographers have approached me afterwards to personally thank me for getting out of their way. So now this is something I try to remember each time. I have a suggestion for you: Practice your ceremonial kiss! When it is time to seal your vows with a kiss, you may want to make it a “ceremonial kiss” – that is, make it a very gently held kiss for 3-5 seconds or more. This helps to increase chances of someone capturing the beautiful moment in a picture that you can treasure for a lifetime. It is okay to smile, joke, laugh, or even cry during your wedding. Don't ever feel like you must hide your emotions. TEARS OF JOY on your wedding day are an authentic, beautiful expression of Love. Be sure to wear waterproof mascara! 😊
- 22. PHOTOS OF OFFICIANT / PHOTOS OF YOU:** I am so honored to be part of your special day but prefer NOT to be included in any formal wedding photos. It is quite uncomfortable for me. If you ask me for a quick “selfie” with you, I may oblige or politely decline. Thank you for understanding. I do love snapping quick pics of wedding parties with my cellphone for use online or to promote my website. I like to post the best pictures and most fun pictures I have taken. If any Couple objects, just let me know and I can remove. I appreciate the gorgeous wedding photos I sometimes receive afterwards. However, I prefer to take my own candid snaps on my cellphone rather than posting your photographer's wedding pics online to avoid potential copyright issues or “stepping on the toes” of any photographer or the risk of misidentifying them in a blog, post, or photo credit or not at all.
- 23. COVID-19 PANDEMIC PRECAUTIONS:** Yes, I am fully vaccinated, boosted, and intend to receive further boosters as necessary. I can use PPE as necessary. If you are sick, immunocompromised, and/or require me to wear a mask, gloves, etc., for any reason please let me know and I will be happy to comply.
- 24. BOOKING OFFICIANT SERVICES CONSTITUTES YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF ALL RATES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS. RATES/TERMS/CONDITIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE: Full payment locks in any rate. All rates/fees are non-refundable.** The rate and terms in place at the time of booking confirmation are what we shall abide by. The purpose of this document is to protect the “Couple” and the “Officiant” and to help avoid any misunderstanding, to understand our respective roles/duties/responsibilities, and to understand how bookings, payments, change requests, cancellations/no-shows, refunds, etc., shall be handled. **THE GOAL: clear communication, no surprises, full transparency.**