

Short and Sweet Ceremonies

RATES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS

My Officiant Fee Schedule (non-refundable)	
Local Ceremony (wedding/elopement/commitment/vow renewal): officiant travels to couple's local location	\$350
Quick No-Frills Elopement: couple travels with their two witnesses to officiant's location to sign (no groups)	\$300
ADD-ONS (or EXTRA FEES To Be Determined TBD)	
Rehearsals – 1hr increments (must be pre-arranged)	\$100
Extra time – delayed late start, or waiting fee (in 30-min increments)	\$50
Travel fees – varies depending on travel distance from officiant's home to the ceremony rehearsal and/or ceremony location, as well as any non-paved road and/or hiking requirements to reach ceremony location.	\$50 to \$350
Hotel accommodation – only applies for some remote locations with sunrise or sunset ceremony	TBD
State/National Park or event entrance fees, ferries/trains, tolls, parking, valet, etc.,	TBD
COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS: I was vaccinated Spring 2021 and intend to receive any/all necessary boosters. PPE.	

RATES/TERMS/CONDITIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE: Rates, terms and conditions shown on the website or in any written document by Short and Sweet Ceremonies or Carmen Lane LLC are subject to change without notice. Full payment locks in any rate. The rate and terms we agree on shall be what we 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.

- RATES:** (SEE ABOVE) Payment is due in full at the time of booking unless other arrangements are made 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 any necessary hotel cost if there is to be a sunrise or sunset ceremony in a remote location. If a hotel is necessary, the officiant will inform the couple of the exact cost ASAP. Wedding rehearsals are for the bride and groom and the wedding party to practice the procession and it is not necessary for officiant to attend the rehearsal in order to officiate your ceremony. If you prefer the officiant attends your rehearsal, the rate will be an additional \$100/hour and the rehearsal date must be arranged at the time of the booking. If the rehearsal is in a remote location, additional travel fees also apply. Please discuss any rehearsal requirement when making your original booking request. Add-on fees may be invoiced separately by the officiant, depending on the situation.
- BOOKING DATES/TIMES are on a first come, first served basis. Once you have booked me, our agreement/contract begins.** All dates/times are subject to the officiant's availability. Failure to make full payment or respond to invoices for officiant services by the due date will result in cancellation of a 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.
- LOCAL vs REMOTE LOCATION:** Any venue within a 30-minute drive of officiant's home in Olympia (6333 75th Ave NE) is considered local. Beyond a 30-minute drive is considered remote and travel fees shall apply. If the ceremony location is "off the beaten path" that is, if it requires traveling on unpaved roads, forestry roads, and/or involves hiking any distance, etc., this may also constitute a remote location. No surprises. The couple shall inform officiant of the precise date and time and location where the ceremony is to be held (so officiant may locate via GPS) as well as the specific ceremony conditions. These details help determine whether the officiant considers a location local or remote, whether travel fees apply, and whether or not a hotel room is necessary for the officiant.
- WHEN IS PAYMENT DUE?** Full payment is due at 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. Any add-on fees will be discussed and may be invoiced separately after the ceremony, depending on situation. Add-on fees are due immediately upon receipt of invoice. All payments are non-refundable.
- ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF PAYMENT:** Cash is preferred. A local check is also acceptable. A \$40 NSF fee applies. Any payments via credit card must be pre-arranged. Payment receipts are provided by the officiant.
- 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 respond promptly to each other. For any emergencies, officiant agrees to be telephoned by couple even late at night at (360) 280-0888. Leave a voice message if it goes to voicemail. Email is carmen-lane@comcast.net. When sending a text, please include your name so officiant knows who the text is from.

7. **NON-DENOMINATIONAL CEREMONY SCRIPT:** I am a non-denominational wedding officiant. I have a short and sweet wedding ceremony script which still allows for couples to include their own personal wedding vows upon request. If the couple has special verbiage or quotes that they want the officiant to include, they must provide it to the officiant at booking or well in advance. For quick, no-frills elopements at officiant's location, standard ceremony verbiage such as "Do you take ___ as your husband/wife/partner/lifelong companion..." shall be used.
8. **VALID MARRIAGE LICENSE and TWO LEGAL WITNESSES REQUIRED:** It is the sole responsibility of the wedding couple to provide officiant a valid Washington State marriage license and to provide two adults 18+ to serve as witnesses at the wedding and all parties will sign the marriage paperwork promptly. The officiant shall arrive prior to ceremony start time to review marriage paperwork and all parties agree the ceremony shall begin on time and will sign the marriage paperwork promptly before officiant must depart. It is the responsibility of the wedding couple to ensure their portions of their marriage 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 officiant with what is determined to be an invalid/expired marriage license, it will be a unofficial commitment ceremony rather than a legal wedding ceremony. **NOTE:** For impromptu elopements at the beach, etc., where the bride and groom are not from the area and/or do not have any witnesses of their own, it is possible to ask tourists who are 18+ to volunteer as witnesses. This happens often and tourists are usually happy to help the couple, but the officiant makes no promises to provide witnesses.
9. **RECORDING OF THE MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE WITH COUNTY OF ISSUE:** After the wedding ceremony and signing, the wedding officiant retains the marriage license and mails the marriage certificate to the county office of origin (usually the auditor's office) for recording within 30 days or as rules direct. Certified copies of the recorded marriage certificate are to be obtained by the couple from the county of issue, if desired. Duty/responsibility of the officiant ends after performing the ceremony and sending the completed marriage certificate to the county of issue for recording as rules instruct. After the wedding, some couples who are in a rush to obtain their certified copies from the county may request to take possession themselves and bring their marriage 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. When the couple takes possession of their marriage certificate after their ceremony, the couple assumes responsibility for recording it with the county of origin in a timely fashion. In this case, duty/responsibility of the officiant ends after performing the ceremony and entrusting the signed marriage certificate to the wedding couple to have it recorded themselves with the county. The officiant shall not bear any responsibility for any individual's deliberate or unintentional failure to record a marriage certificate correctly with the county of issue. The officiant and couple shall cooperate fully with the county in the unlikely event the certificate is not recorded in a timely fashion and **ALL PARTIES SHALL BE HELD HARMLESS**.
10. **DATE/TIME/LOCATION CHANGE REQUESTS:** Officiant is willing to work with couples to help meet the change requirement if possible. All changes are subject to 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 location 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, mountain hiking or climbing, scuba, etc., the ceremony shall take place immediately following the couple's extreme activity as time and conditions permit.
11. **REFUND POLICY:** Officiant rates and fees are 100% non-refundable.
12. **HOTEL ACCOMMODATION:** The officiant may require hotel accommodation for travel to ceremonies at couple's remote locations, depending on how far the officiant must travel in to reach the ceremony location AND the time of day the ceremony is to begin. For example, a sunrise or a sunset wedding ceremony at Mount Rainier or any other remote location. Discuss with the officiant when booking officiant services for a remote location.
13. **TIME ALLOTTED FOR CEREMONIES INCLUDING SIGNING OF MARRIAGE PAPERWORK:** All ceremonies are short and sweet as the name implies. A 50-minute maximum time limit applies from the time the officiant arrives on site to review the marriage paperwork before the ceremony, to the signing of the marriage paperwork by the wedding couple and witnesses after the ceremony. Actual length of a ceremony depends on whether couple has a formal wedding processional; how many adults, children, pets, etc., are in the processional; length of personal vows, extra rituals, or readings couple has decided to include. (For quick no-frills elopements at officiant's chosen location, maximum time allotted shall be 30 minutes to perform the ceremony and to complete/sign the marriage paperwork.) Any extra time would be an additional cost is indicated in the fee schedule on the first page.
14. **LATE STARTS:** Minor delays are quite common and will not affect a couple's ceremony. But delays of 15 minutes or more past the scheduled ceremony start time will have an effect. The couple will communicate to the officiant whether they wish to pay the extra time fee or if they prefer to abbreviate any late-started ceremony in order to fit into the scheduled time frame. 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 arrival.
15. **NO SHOWS: No shows = no refund.** Your time is valuable and so is mine. If an elopement 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 forfeit of any payment. No refund shall be issued. Officiant may wait up to 30 minutes and then return home. To avoid this, please communicate with your officiant.

16. **EXTRA CEREMONY/COMMITMENT RITUALS:** If a couple wishes to include a hand-fasting, candle-lighting, or sand pouring in their ceremony, these extra rituals should be discussed well in advance with the officiant. There is no extra charge for these rituals to be included in the ceremony unless it becomes a time issue.
17. **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 ceremonies, couple will provide their own silk cords/ribbons, candles, lighters, table, 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 accommodate and may declare couple married afterwards.
18. **FORCE MAJEURE or ACT OF GOD and HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT:** **Couples who are planning big, elaborate, expensive weddings/receptions involving multiple vendors may wish to consider purchasing wedding/event insurance to help protect their investment against the unforeseen.** Check out the vendor suggestions on the Short and Sweet Ceremonies website for some wedding insurance suggestions, or Google it, or ask your insurance provider for a recommendation. In the unlikely event Short and Sweet Ceremonies, Carmen Lane LLC is incapacitated or unable to officiate the ceremony as confirmed 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 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 parties and prevents both officiant and wedding couple 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 before the marriage license expires.
19. **BUTTERFLIES / PRE-WEDDING JITTERS DURING CEREMONY ARE OK! 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/edibles, etc., until after your ceremony is completed. Appreciate the importance of remaining sober and mentally "present" for your big day. A single celebratory drink before the ceremony may be OK, but over indulging is not a good idea. And although the officiant shall not intentionally perform a ceremony for intoxicated people and the couple shall bear all costs associated with any delays as a result; Short and Sweet Ceremonies, Carmen Lane LLC, and the officiant shall bear no responsibility for a couple's or any individual's failure to remain sober for the wedding ceremony nor bear any responsibility for any challenges to the validity of the marriage. A wedding is an exciting and sometimes a stressful time for a couple. It can be an emotional rollercoaster. Feelings of butterflies in the stomach, pre-wedding jitters, and nervousness are completely normal. As your officiant, I am happy to take a moment to chat with you or give you a few moments to breathe and calm down and collect yourselves before beginning your ceremony. If we have already begun the ceremony and you want me to pause a moment or if you just need or a tension breaker to laugh, just whisper or signal to me and we will all take a nice deep breath and I can say something off the cuff and we will continue when you are ready. This is your day and I want to go at your pace. If you are nervous about not knowing what to say or do when the time comes, please don't worry. My job is to be attuned to you both, watching you closely, and guiding you step by step throughout your ceremony, so you know when 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 I can.
20. **THE KISS:** After I pronounce you "married", 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. A SUGGESTION: Practice your ceremonial kiss! When it is time to seal you seal your vows with a kiss, you may want to make it a "ceremonial kiss" – that is, a very gentle one held for 3-5 seconds. This helps increase chances of someone capturing the beautiful moment in a picture you can treasure for a lifetime. It's OK to smile, laugh, or even cry! Don't ever feel like you must hide these emotions. Tears of joy are an authentic, beautiful expression of love.
21. **PHOTOS OF OFFICIANT/PHOTOS OF YOU:** I am honored to be a part of your special day, but honestly I prefer not to be in any wedding photos. If the bride asks for a quick photo with her, I will likely oblige if time allows. And of course, I love snapping quick pics of wedding parties with my cellphone for use online or for promotion. I like to post the best pictures and most fun pictures I have taken. If a couple objects, just let me know and I can remove. I appreciate the wedding photos I sometimes receive afterwards! However, I do prefer to take my own candid snaps on my cellphone rather than posting these gorgeous professional wedding pics online to avoid potential copyright issues or "stepping on the toes" of any professional photographer or the risk of misidentifying them in the blog or photo credit or not at all.
22. **RATES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE:** Rates, terms and conditions shown on the website or in any written document by Short and Sweet Ceremonies or Carmen Lane LLC are subject to change without notice. Booking my officiant services constitutes full acceptance of all rates, terms, and conditions. The rate and terms we agree on shall be what we abide by. The goal: clear communication, no surprises, full transparency.

~ Carmen Lane, non-denominational wedding officiant & ordained ULC minister
Short and Sweet Ceremonies | Carmen Lane LLC