

# MEDINA COUNTY



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# Marrying Medina County

VOWS BY VALERIE WILL MAKE YOUR SPECIAL DAY UNFORGETTABLE

Article by Valerie Hazlett

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I was married 13 years ago, saying “I do” in a pair of jeans, in a gazebo in the woods, my dogs acting as best man and maid of honor. My ceremony was intimate consisting of me, my husband and our wedding officiant. Whenever I think of my wedding ceremony, I smile. The officiant’s simple, elegant ceremony made my wedding day memorable. Although I can’t remember every word said, I can remember the way I felt. My small, easy ceremony was fitting for me and my husband.

That memory inspires me in my small business, Vows by Valerie.

Who am I? I am your local wedding officiant who proudly calls Medina County home. My love of writing comes from my grandma who specialized in writing poems for any occasion: school plays, new babies, a snowy day. Whenever I read my grandma's poetry, I am reminded that words are extraordinary. They capture love and evoke emotion. Words express feelings and build connections. This is especially true of words spoken on a wedding day. I keep this in the front of my mind as I craft wedding ceremonies.

*What type of wedding is right for you?*

A large wedding can be rooted in tradition and current trends. It is an action-packed day accommodating a higher guest count with most following the same flow. It takes time to plan and can be expensive; but is a great choice for those who want a big experience and party!

Smaller weddings are like showing a rare item to only a few special people. Micro Ceremonies are calmer, more relaxed. There is less pressure on the couple and family, putting focus on the day YOU want to have, not the day guests are expecting you to have. Fewer people permit the couple time to interact with each guest, emphasizing quality over quantity. The attire can be upscale or casual and the day will allow your personality to shine through, in details large and small.

Perhaps, like my wedding, a Simple "I do" is for you — my most intimate service that is just the three of us capturing your vow and commitment. People need to get married for a myriad of reasons. Life events happen in which a marriage may need to be expedited or spontaneous. A bride and groom in a private elopement? That's where I come in. I am here. I am local.

The best feature of a micro ceremony or elopement is that they can take place anywhere. Medina County plays host to an array of non-venue spaces: gazebos to Metroparks, the Medina Square to lake views, historic settings to first date spots and breweries to wineries. Sometimes the best location is the comfort of your own home or backyard — *talk about love and local!*

As you plan your wedding, keep in mind a good officiant does more than legally marry you. They express what's in your heart in that special, amazing moment and create a memory to be cherished. It would be my honor to officiate your lifetime promise to each other. Standing alongside a couple through one of the most important moments in their lives is amazing. I don't take it for granted.

Whether your wedding day is simply for two, or for a gathering, large or small, I've got you covered. Your day should be special, and I will do my best to make it memorable and to ensure you remember the love you feel. I accommodate both non-denominational and faith-based couples and would be honored to be your wedding officiant.

Learn more about me at [vowsbyvalerie.com](http://vowsbyvalerie.com). Also, meet me at Amy's Arbors Bridal Open House on February 17 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Already married? Vow Renewals make for an amazing gift for those milestone anniversaries or a Valentine's Day gift. Renew your love and reconnect with those feelings from your wedding day. The best feature of a micro ceremony or elopement is that they can take place anywhere.



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