



DIOCESE *of* LACROSSE

OFFICE FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

As Director of the Office for Marriage and Family Life for the Diocese of La Crosse, it is my privilege to inform you that you can receive a \$75 discount on your Minnesota marriage license fee. Your attendance at the **Married Love: Two Becoming One** completes 9 hours of premarital education and completion of the FOCCUS pre-marriage inventory completes the remaining 3 hours for the required 12 total hours.

Attached is further explanation of what needs to be provided to the Local Registrar when you apply for your marriage license. You may use the included draft and copy on to your parish letterhead.

In summary, you will need to provide:

- A statement from the pastor who is officiating your marriage which is:
 - o Signed (application of parish seal encouraged)
 - o Notarized
 - o On parish letterhead
- The statement must include your *legal names* (some Local Registrars require your middle names).

Thank you for your preparation. May your wedding be amazing & your marriage even better!

Blessings,

Dan Kitzhaber

Director - Office for Marriage and Family Life



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The family is the greatest treasure of any country. Let us all work to protect and strengthen this, the cornerstone of society. – Pope Francis

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 (new)
- b. Educator's signature must be notarized (new)
- 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 2both 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 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 1 (c)(d)

(c) 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 signed and dated, and notarized statement 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 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)~~ (d) ***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 2both 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 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

Date: _____

I (name of educator) _____, confirm that the groom (using full legal name) _____ and the bride (using full legal name) _____ received at least 12 hours of premarital education and the teaching of communication and conflict management skills. I am a licensed or ordained minister, a person authorized to solemnize marriage under Minnesota Statutes, section 517.18, or a person licensed to practice marriage and family therapy under Minnesota Statutes section 148.33.

Signature: _____