



Tasteful Civil Ceremonies

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Wedding Primer

AND VOWS RENEWAL SERVICES

YOUR MARRIAGE, is, of course, a major event in your lives, and the most serious of commitments. Your wedding should be a joyous occasion, and one of solemnity. ***MY MISSION*** is to relieve you of some of the stress of planning, and to offer you expert, professional advice regarding customary wedding practices and protocol, as you may desire. I pledge to help you create a thoroughly respectful and memorable marriage ceremony.

- 1) **Location for ceremony:** some suggestions – the *Gazebo at White Point Gardens*, and the *Pineapple Fountain at Waterfront Park* are two good locations for small or medium size affairs – available for a modest fee through the city recreation department. The *Confederate Home and Garden* on Broad Street is a favorite among many historic settings. How about a colonial-era parlor overlooking Charleston Harbor? See *The Palmer Home* (ask for Kristen) And, our local beaches are a popular choice for smaller ceremonies, and they are public access with no permit or fee required.
- 2) **Marriage License:** You may obtain your marriage license from any South Carolina county *Clerk of Court*, and there is a 24 hour waiting period. For this reason, most of my couples from out of state wait until they are here in Charleston to get their license. (100 Broad Street, 843-958-5183)
- 3) **Room Accommodations:** For you and your traveling guests, room reservations should be made well ahead, as Charleston's hotels are almost always full on weekends. Many properties such as *Meeting Street Inn* have room-block policies with automatic release dates. (PS: I am the GM! – 800-842-8022)
- 4) **Wedding Vows / Renewal Vows:** I encourage you to be involved in choosing and personalizing your vows - after all the words you will say and the promises you make to each other on your wedding day are meant to be everlasting. Would you like *opening and closing prayers*? How about *biblical passages* that pertain to marriage? Would you like a *unity candle* (or, sand) ceremony? What about each of you composing a brief *message of devotion*, to be spoken to one another at some point during the ceremony? Would you like others to recite or participate in some way? All good things to consider...I'll be happy to send you some vows examples as a place to start. Of course, some couples prefer to use one of these examples with little or no change – that's OK too.



- 5) **Horse drawn Carriages:** This is a good way to add a nice touch for transporting you and/or your wedding party in and around the historic district. A popular idea involves a carriage pick-up at the hotel or inn, then drop (and wait) at the Gazebo or Pineapple Fountain for the ceremony, and then re-board to be dropped at one of our many wonderful restaurants for the celebratory dinner or reception.



- 6) **Photography:** I know and have worked with several local photographers who offer affordable pricing [Clyde McDonald](#) – (843)-412-2375; [Rachel Kuchar](#) – 843-822-7172 ; [Lea Dales](#) – 843-452-3175



- 7) **Flowers:** If you would like a nosegay or boutonniere, or flowers for the whole wedding party, I recommend **Rodney**, here at [Meeting Street Inn](#), **Beth** at [Wildflowers](#), or [The Flower Cottage](#) (843)-577-6224, or [Tiger Lily](#) (843)-723-2808.



- 8) **Classic String Music:** This is a good way to add a touch of class to any ceremony, and string music harkens to the bygone 18th century Colonial influence. I recommend [Alex Agrest](#) (843)-324-7721, or [Allyson and Ken Carrington](#) (843)-364-6410.



- 9) **Wedding Cake:** Saffron Bakery (843)-577-3719, or Normandy Farm (843)-769-6400.

