

## SoCal Christian Weddings FAQs

### Do you require premarital counseling?

No, but I highly encourage it. See my tab "Optional Couples Relationship Coaching" for how I provide relationship coaching to couples, either before or after the wedding, to help you start out on the best footing possible for a lifetime of healthy communication and love.

### The prospective bride is pregnant. Are you still willing to marry us?

Yes and congratulations!

### One or both of us have been divorced. Will you still marry us?

Life happens. I believe in a grace-based gospel. Yes.

### We just want to be legally married, no fancy ceremony. Can you help us?

**YES! "SAY & SIGN"** – Fast, affordable! Often available on very short notice. ONLY 2 of you meet with me. Everything done in 5-10 minutes as this is the minimum the law requires for legal marriage. Fee: \$149 if you come to my Temecula home; if I come to you at your home/office/coffee shop, \$199-\$299 depending on my driving distance. Not for formal venues and not intended to be photogenic, but on request for no extra charge I will include an optional prayer and one simple photo. **Note:** I cannot issue marriage licenses, you MUST obtain a **CONFIDENTIAL MARRIAGE LICENSE** from the county recorder and bring that license & valid govt photo ID (Driver's license, Passport, Military ID). Call/text 951-234-6538 for info & availability!

### We are already legally married—can you provide a ceremony for us?

**YES!** Whether everyone knows or no one knows, I will do the exact same kind of ceremony as I would as if we were utilizing a marriage license to make this your legal event. I never reveal to anyone, parents, bridal party, anyone, whether you are already legally married—that is your business and no one *else's (well, except me of course, for legal reasons)*. The only thing that is required in such cases is that you send me a photo or pdf of your legal marriage certificate EARLY ON in our planning process—again, for legal reasons I have to verify you're actually married. Then I regard the entire matter as confidential between us.

### Will you attend/help lead the rehearsal?

Based on how I lead your consultation with a mini-rehearsal, often you don't need me there. If you have a wedding coordinator, they typically practice getting everyone into place. That'll save you some money, but if you would feel better with my being there, I will be glad to be present and lead my portion of the rehearsal. My fee for rehearsals within 25 miles of my home in Temecula is \$150.00; for greater distances the fee may increase depending on the distance.

### When do you arrive to the ceremony?

I arrive 60 minutes in advance to meet with your DJ, photographer, and wedding coordinator so we're all on the same page. I also refresh everyone's mind about the physical movements we've already practiced in our mini-rehearsal at my home or on Google Meet/Zoom/FaceTime so you remember what to do. For very small or simple weddings, I'll arrive 30 minutes early. I'll take great care to ensure you and everyone are calm and prepared!

### How long is a typical ceremony?

About 20 minutes is the basic time once it gets started. If we add extra things in like additional readings, songs, unity candles or sand, etc. it takes a little longer, but never over 30 minutes. It's long enough to be meaningful, and short enough that no one is worrying about when the cocktail hour starts. In special contexts, like in a hot air balloon or hospital room, it can be as short as five minutes. Together we'll take the setting and weather into account and adjust accordingly.

### Can we write our own vows?

Yes! More than half of the couples I serve write what I call "Personalized Promises" which I can help you with through examples, guidance and a review of what you wrote. Then I will print your final draft on parchment paper which you

hold in a folder to read from, and you get to keep after the ceremony (some couples frame them and hang them in their home). These Personalized Promises are followed by more formal "repeat after me" vows, and I have 38 different versions of these vows for you to choose from. I can offer guidance and examples--see the tab for "Your Ceremony" where you can download guidance. Start early—write them down, don't wing it!

#### **Will you make an announcement for people to put away their cameras/phones?**

Yes, I recommend it! At your request I can make a polite announcement a few minutes before the wedding party enters so that your guests put their gadgets away and don't get in the professional photographer's way (it happens). It is disconcerting to see your wedding photos filled with everyone looking at their phones instead of participating in your intimate moment when you already have professional photographers/videographers. "Please be nice, put away your device!"

#### **Are there any limitations about photography/videography?**

Only one--I ask that they not go behind me during the ceremony itself, mostly because it is very distracting to your guests and a wedding is your special moment, not a media event. I am very intentional about working closely with your professionals so you can obtain the best photos and video possible. And yes, I will definitely step out of the picture BEFORE your first kiss as couple!

#### **Do you bring your own sound equipment, or will you wear a microphone provided by the DJ or videographer to capture your voice?**

I do have a small sound system that is helpful at beaches/backyards and other small settings. We can play music for your ceremony and use the microphone so your guests can hear your vows. There is a \$40.00 charge for bringing this equipment. I do have a strong voice that carries well without shouting in most locations, even outdoors, but the real concern is your guests hearing YOU--that's why they came to your wedding! And some music is nice to have. It is worth a few dollars! I will wear a lapel mike for to capture my voice and yours for the video, but **I greatly prefer your DJ to provide a HANDHELD CORDLESS microphone**, without a microphone stand, and I'll sound check everything with your DJ before the ceremony.

#### **May we have a photo with you after the ceremony?**

Yes, I'd love to be in a few quick fun and formal photos with you!

#### **What about special requests, like a sand or wine-blending ceremony, a special song, a reading or something similar? Is it acceptable to include a pet in the ceremony?**

I'm delighted to build in all kinds of optional elements to your ceremony--see the tab "Your Ceremony" and look for the button "Optional Ceremony Elements" for lots of wordings of various options. I'm adding to it all the time, and we can likely do something I may not have listed. If you like, one or more guests can read a scripture or other appropriate selection (*as long as I approve it well in advance*). As long as you don't want to marry a pet, I am happy to include them, they have walked down the aisle in cute outfits and even been mentioned in the ceremony--done that many times!

#### **We have children. How will you make them feel part of the ceremony?**

There are many ways to include children in your ceremony besides being a ring bearer or flower girl. We can add family vows, name them in the prayers, you can present them with flowers or other gift, or include them in the blending of sand. Got another idea? Let's do it!

#### **What will you wear? Will you match our wedding colors?**

What I wear is mostly your choice! For choices of what I can wear for your wedding, click on the button below. Most couples ask me to wear a black, charcoal or dark grey suit and neutral/silvery tie so I don't distract in photos. If you want me to match with tie or shirt color, we may be able to work that out. Many couples like my traditional minister's gown, which adds another kind of dignity to the ceremony. For more casual weddings, as in a backyard or at the beach, I can go open-collar shirt with a blazer, or even just a nice shirt that fits the occasion--even a Hawaii shirt if you like. Look at the photos and let's talk!

#### **What authority do you have to perform legal ceremonies?**

I am an ordained minister in the Evangelical Covenant Church and have full legal authority to perform your wedding ceremony in California. For other states, I may need to register, but there is no fee for you in this regard. Click [here](#) to view my certificate of ordination from 1989.

### **Do you do non-religious or inter-faith ceremonies?**

All my weddings have at least some elements of Christian faith. I have served couples of every Christian faith background you can imagine--Baptist, Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Greek / Russian Orthodox, non-denominational and everything in between. Based on your desires, the ceremony may have fewer or more religious references, but for me every ceremony must have at least one passage from the Bible, at least one prayer, and mention Jesus Christ at least once. However, I will not be pushy or try to convert people at your wedding--I recognize there are people from many faiths and of no faith who attend weddings. The ceremony I lead is meant to reflect your level of understanding and commitment to God as well as mine. While some couples I serve do have pretty different religious backgrounds from each other, the basis for the wedding is Christian--I can't lead a wedding that is half Christian and half Hindu, or Jewish, or Buddhist or Islamic. If you're looking for something like that, we're probably not the best fit for each other. Let's talk and find where our mutual flexibility lies for everyone's comfort.

### **When do you sign the marriage license? At the ceremony or beforehand?**

I arrive early to your ceremony to go over last-minute details and when time allows I'll ensure your witnesses complete the license before the ceremony; otherwise I'll take care of it after the ceremony. It is my legal responsibility to turn it in to the County Recorder, I'll do that for you.

### **Do you stay for the reception?**

I will stay long enough afterward to be sociable with your guests--usually about 30 minutes or so, but you do not need to include me in your meal count--weddings are expensive enough already. So usually I do not stay--plus I need to go home and nurture my own marriage! But some couples really do want me to stay to offer a blessing over the meal, or just because he have an unusual connection, which happens a few times a year. In that case, if you would like me to be a guest at your reception, I ask that I may bring my lovely wife so we can enjoy dinner together that day.

### **Do you expect a gratuity?**

No, I don't expect a gratuity, but many couples or parents who recognize the service I've provided have given a gratuity after the ceremony, which I appreciate. What I value every bit as much is a well-written review on Google.

### **How can we leave you an online review?**

Google is where I am most happy to receive reviews. 5 or 6 thoughtfully composed sentences and however many stars you think I've earned will help me have the opportunity to serve others. Here is how to do it:

#### **If using a smartphone:**

1. Go to Google and search for SoCal Christian Weddings.
2. At the top of the search results is my Google listing with 3 blue boxes. Tap the blue **Reviews** box. After you rate however many stars you think I earned, the next box will appear where you can write a review; adding a photo is a plus. Make sure to tap "**Post**" and that's it!

#### **If using a computer:**

1. Go to Google and search for SoCal Christian Weddings. On the right side of the search results is my Google listing with my photo.
2. A little below that is a small grey box saying "**Write a Review**" -- click on that box, select how many stars I've earned and then start writing. Any **photos** you can add are especially appreciated! When done, make sure to click "**Post**" and that's it!

If you found me on The Knot, Wedding Wire, or Yelp!, then you can copy/paste the same review and post it there too, which really helps me. Thank you!

### **How can we reserve our date with you?**

When I've confirmed I'm available for your date and you're ready to reserve my service, you can do so with a nonrefundable retainer\* for \$350 which goes toward the total fee (*Venmo, Zelle, CashApp, check by mail or cash in*

*person work best for payments). I can be found on Venmo at Jeff-Saville-1 and on Zelle or CashApp by using my cell # 951-234-6538. I will acknowledge your payment by text or email, and with a formal signed receipt if desired.*

*\*The retainer is non-refundable but if you need to change your date for some reason, I will provide the same service on your new date (or location) IF I am available. This happened MANY times during COVID 2020-2022 and I was able to flex to a new date or location many times with no problem. I will do my best for you too but I cannot make a guarantee. Advance communication is key, so please talk with me before you lock into your new date.*

