

EDUCATOR'S STATEMENT OF PREMARITAL EDUCATION

(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**
- b. **Educator's signature must be notarized or marked with the church seal.**
- c. Must have **completed** 12 hours of education (not completing or are in-process of taking)
- d. Educators Statement must be presented at the 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. The Local Registrar must retain the Educator's Statement for 7 years.
- g. The **full** legal first, middle and last names of both applicants must be on the 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 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 both 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 civil 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 civil marriage license a signed, dated, and notarized or marked with church seal 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 civil 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.

(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 both 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 civil marriages under Minnesota Statutes, section 517.18, or a person licensed to practice civil 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.