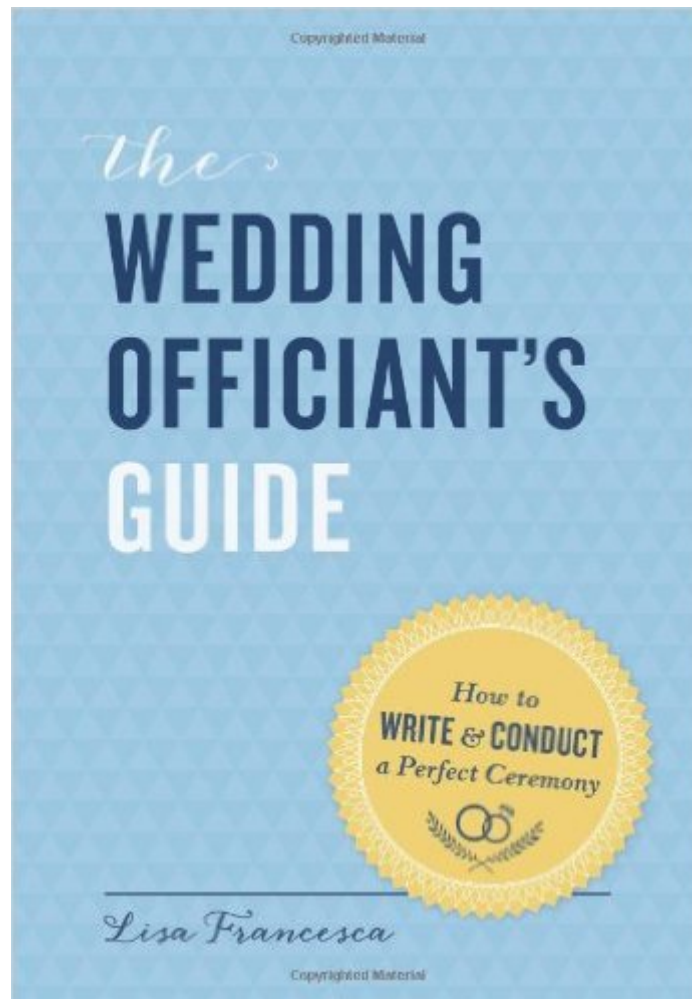


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# The Wedding Officiant's Guide: How To Write And Conduct A Perfect Ceremony



## Synopsis

Last year, one in three American weddings were officiated by a friend or family member. With the officiating trend on the rise, novice officiants need a resource to guide them. In *The Wedding Officiant's Guide*, interfaith minister Lisa Francesca breaks down the entire officiating process, from becoming an ordained officiant and interviewing the couple to drafting and performing a moving ceremony. Written in an engaging and friendly tone, and featuring empowering advice, suggested readings, stories and lessons learned from new officiants, and practical tips from wedding planners, this inviting handbook will help new officiants write and deliver a wedding ceremony that fulfills marriage laws, delights guests, and honors the marrying couple.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This little blue book gets five gold stars for its well-written, clear overviews, its carefully detailed instructions, and its calm reassurances, I bought it as a gift for a bride who is intending to ask her sweet (but not very organized or perceptive) friend to conduct her wedding ceremony. She was EXTREMELY happy to have a gentle, kind way to clue him in. Whether she passes it on to him directly (he'd be relieved to have it, I'm sure) or casually drops key nuggets of wisdom into their conversations, I know it will make a HUGE difference on her special day. I started to flip through it before I wrapped it, and the warm, fine writing drew me in. What a fascinating world, officiating! Who knew what those poor people go through -- couples AND officiants -- when ceremonies aren't properly prepared for!? The author's central focus throughout is on people's feelings, and you can tell she's perceptive and kind. Officiant responsibilities and "how-to" steps are given in overview,

and then carefully repeated so officiants can't go wrong. Yet there's nothing condescending about it; it's a compassionate, careful aid for newbie officiants who don't want to ruin a very special day -- who want to enhance it, even, by adding just the right touches, by staying out of the way at key moments, by helping family and friends honor the couple's wishes. In fact, I think even established officiants ought to read this book -- I've been to more than one wedding where the "experienced" minister was inadvertently embarrassing or obnoxious. The book is an easy, enjoyable read, as all instructional books should be, and the thorough instructions are broken up with personal stories that help you understand how important it is to properly prepare for officiating. The author is a long-time officiant herself, and it's clear from the thoughtfully chosen vignettes in this book (no "me" rambling here) that she's gained valuable experience with a wide range of personalities, beliefs, family situations, ceremonial rituals, traditions, settings, and more. (Believe me, in the Bay Area you see it all.) She writes with genuine compassion for both officiants and couples, and shares just enough of her own experiences to make you smile, and to put you at ease that she knows her stuff. Part Two, about rituals, readings, and resources for a variety of weddings, saves officiants a ton of homework. If my friend's inexperienced officiant reads this book, he can't possibly go wrong, and that's going to make them both happy. It makes a great gift for brides and officiants, from anyone who'd like to help both.

Lisa has written a wonderful, full, informative book in which the spirit of a wedding is clearly transmitted. Yes, there is the *WAY* to perform a wedding, what considerations need be made; and she does this with kindness and compassion. But more than that, it is a book of love.

This book is EXACTLY what you need if you are about to officiate a wedding. I used this to help with my first wedding and it was invaluable. From the interview planning for the first talk with the couple, to managing the rehearsal, to the wedding day - I used it throughout the planning and execution of the wedding. The couple got what they wanted - the ceremony was very personal and meaningful and this book helped me prepare. I will continue to use it as I hopefully do more weddings.

Really a great guide for anyone wanting to officiate at a friend's or relative's wedding. Packed with guidance, information, anecdotes, and ideas in a readable format. If you've asked a friend to officiate at your wedding you may want to get them this book; or if you're the officiant, it will help you prepare a wonderful wedding.

This is a good reference book, written by Lisa, who's father just kind of pushed her into following in his reverend footsteps! She has many tips that are helpful to new officiants, and she writes this book like she's been doing this for years, so you get very good and helpful information about how to perform ceremonies, wrangle the rehearsal, and so much more. I like that her ideas are down to earth, and not overly religious, which is what many brides don't want. This is a very good book if you are starting out.

I was recently asked to officiate a wedding for two friends. I had never done this before, and as I perused the internet for some info, I came across this book. It is the perfect place to start if you are new to this, as I was. It offers some insight on the ordination/deputization process, and then it will walk you through the types of ceremonies, the types of officiants, your role in all aspects of the wedding (pre-wedding, on the wedding day, and post-wedding). It also gives you ideas to make the ceremony unique and special. It should be noted that this does not have a full script or anything of the sort, although it does contain samples of phrases/greetings/etc that you can use at various points in the ceremony. If you are looking for more ideas for readings or scripts, it does provide some additional sources. I highly recommend for any new wedding officiant .

I have been planning weddings for over a decade now and have worked with Lisa on many occasions for my own clients. SO when it came down to who would officiate my own wedding there was no question I would ask Lisa. She is so lovely and calm, focused and incredibly knowledgeable about what is important about YOUR ceremony. We kept talking about how she should write a book about how to officiate as I saw the trend leaning towards people wanting to have someone close to them officiate. I am so in love with how this book came out. I think its perfect for those wanting to write their own meaningful ceremony. I give it to any of my clients who want to have a close friend or family member officiate and everyone has loved it so far. There is no doubt this is the THE book for this kind of thing. And Chronicle did an amazing job designing it and keeping it easy to read and pretty to look at. best, Alison, Alison Events Planning and Design, San Francisco.

This is a pretty detailed instruction guide on what you need to do to prepare for officiating a wedding. There is a lot of useful information and different questions you can ask. I was working out of a few different books and websites but this one was extremely helpful.

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The Wedding Officiant's Guide: How to Write and Conduct a Perfect Ceremony Affordable and

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