

EDUCATOR'S STATEMENT

Minn. Stat. § 517.08 subd. 1b(c)-(d)

Minnesota law provides for a reduced marriage license fee when a couple completes 12 hours of premarital education. "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." Minn. Stat. § 517.08 subd. 1b(c). To obtain the reduced fee, applicants must provide a statement from the educator **at the time of application**. The statement must meet the following requirements:

1. Statement must be on the educator's letterhead
2. Statement must be signed and dated by the educator, with the educator's signature notarized or "marked" with a church seal
3. Statement must include legal names of both applicants and these names must be identical to the names on the marriage application
4. **Minnesota law (Minn. Stat. § 517.08 subd. 1b(d)) specifically requires the following language be used in the Educator's Statement:**

"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."