

EDUCATOR'S STATEMENT

(MS 517.08 Subd 1)

Requirements of the Educator's statement are set out in statute and are as follows:

- a. Must be on the Educator's Letterhead
- b. Must be notarized or under church seal
- c. Couple must have **completed** 12 hours of education
- d. Educator's Statement must be presented at the time of application – no refunds are given
- e. Education must be provided by a licensed or ordained minister or their designee authorized to solemnize marriages under MS 517.08 or licensed to practice marriage and family therapy under MS 148B.33
- f. Complete legal names of both the applicant's must be on Educator's Statement and these names must be identical to the names on the marriage application.

MS 517.08 Subd 1 (c) & (d): Statute specifically outlines the education required and provides the required wording be used on the Educator's Statement:

(c) The 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 marriage license a statement that is signed, dated, and notarized statement or marked with a church seal, 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 marriages under section 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 (full legal 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."