

# EDUCATOR'S STATEMENT

(MS 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. Legal Names of both the Bride and Groom 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."**

# COPY ONTO CHURCH OR EDUCATORS LETTERHEAD

I, (enter name of educator) confirm that

\_\_\_\_\_ (*Full legal name of Bride*)

And

\_\_\_\_\_ (*Full legal name of Groom*)

Have 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."

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(insert name of educator)

Subscribed and attested to  
This \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_

[must be signed by educator, then either apply witness signature and raised/embossed church seal OR be notarized]

## 2012 Minnesota Statutes

### 517.08 APPLICATION FOR LICENSE.

Subdivision 1.

[Renumbered subds 1a and 1b]

#### Subd. 1b. **Term of license; fee; premarital education.**

(a) The local registrar shall examine upon oath the parties applying for a license relative to the legality of the contemplated marriage. If one party is unable to appear in person, the party appearing may complete the absent applicant's information. The local registrar shall provide a copy of the marriage application to the party who is unable to appear, who must verify the accuracy of the appearing party's information in a notarized statement. The marriage license must not be released until the verification statement has been received by the local registrar. If at the expiration of a five-day period, on being satisfied that there is no legal impediment to it, including the restriction contained in section 259.13, the local registrar shall issue the license, containing the full names of the parties before and after marriage, and county and state of residence, with the county seal attached, and make a record of the date of issuance. The license shall be valid for a period of six months. Except as provided in paragraph (c), the local registrar shall collect from the applicant a fee of \$115 for administering the oath, issuing, recording, and filing all papers required, and preparing and transmitting to the state registrar of vital statistics the reports of marriage required by this section. If the license should not be used within the period of six months due to illness or other extenuating circumstances, it may be surrendered to the local registrar for cancellation, and in that case a new license shall issue upon request of the parties of the original license without fee. A local registrar who knowingly issues or signs a marriage license in any manner other than as provided in this section shall pay to the parties aggrieved an amount not to exceed \$1,000.

[...see website for full content]

(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 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 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 (c) 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."

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.

(e) If section 259.13 applies to the request for a marriage license, the local registrar shall grant the marriage license without the requested name change. Alternatively, the local registrar may delay the granting of the marriage license until the party with the conviction:

(1) certifies under oath that 30 days have passed since service of the notice for a name change upon the prosecuting authority and, if applicable, the attorney general and no objection has been filed under section 259.13; or

(2) provides a certified copy of the court order granting it. The parties seeking the marriage license shall have the right to choose to have the license granted without the name change or to delay its granting pending further action on the name change request.

### **148B.33 REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE.**

#### **Subdivision 1. Documentary evidence of qualifications.**

An applicant for a license shall furnish evidence that the applicant:

(1) has attained the age of majority;

(2) is of good moral character;

(3) is a citizen of the United States, or is lawfully entitled to remain and work in the United States;

(4) has at least two years of supervised postgraduate experience in marriage and family therapy satisfactory to the board;

(5)(i) has completed a master's or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy from a program in a regionally accredited educational institution or from a program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy; or (ii) has completed a master's or doctoral degree from a regionally accredited educational institution in a related field for which the course work is considered by the board to be equivalent to that provided in clause (5)(i);

(6) will agree to conduct all professional activities as a licensed marriage and family therapist in accordance with a code of ethics for marriage and family therapists to be adopted by the board; and

(7) has passed an examination approved by the board by rule.

#### **Subd. 2. Fee.**

Each applicant shall pay a nonrefundable application fee under section 148B.17.

#### **History:**

*1987 c 347 art 3 s 5; 1991 c 292 art 2 s 48; 1Sp2011 c 9 art 5 s 9*