

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 1488.33
- f. Legal Names of both the parties 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 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 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 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 (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 civil 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 civil marriage license application.