

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.