

Salvation Army Ceremonies

Module 3 Weddings



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OFFICER FORMATION STREAM



Overview of module

Weddings

- Introduction
- Preparation
- The ceremony
- Administration
- What now?
- Question time

Acknowledgement of Country

Through our commitment to reconciliation, The Salvation Army acknowledges the First Nations peoples of Australia as the traditional custodians of this land. We further acknowledge and pay our respects to past and present Elders, giving thanks for their wisdom that has sustained their people since the beginning of time, and we pledge to support emerging and future generations.

Those undertaking this module of learning are located on country all around Australia. We encourage you to take a moment to consider the land on which you live, work and play.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, participants will be able to:

- Know how to plan for and conduct wedding ceremonies in line with Salvation Army protocols and guidelines;
- Understand the legal requirements associated with wedding ceremonies;
- Identify and locate the various resources (books, guidelines, preparatory material, government/legal) as well as supporting documentation (legal documents, certificates, paperwork, O&Rs) associated with weddings.

Officer Readiness Profile

This module addresses the following elements of the Officer Readiness Profile:

- 13. Responds to the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of people.
- 14. Appropriately cares for people across a broad range of life's circumstances and seasons.
- 17. Plans and leads creative expressions of worship appropriate to the context.

Introduction

Discussion

- previous attendance, involvement in weddings
- meaningful elements

Preparation

- Visits with the couple
- Timeline
- Awkward conversations
- Legal requirements
- Ceremony and vows
- Pre-marriage counselling
- Rehearsal

The ceremony

- TSA ceremony
- Faith-based elements
- Legal elements
- Vows
- Family traditions, cultural elements
- What not to do...how to recover from challenges
- Practical things
- Cultural considerations

Before the ceremony - couple visits

- How many visits?
- What to include?
- Establish religious nature of the ceremony.
- "Happily ever before and after"
- Ask them why they're getting married? What does it mean for them?
- Legal requirements (NOIM, full names, proof of ID, wording).
- The content of the ceremony/vows.
- Explain how to apply for their legal copy of wedding certificate.
- Money?

Before the ceremony - counselling

- The Salvation Army recommends Prepare/Enrich pre-marriage counselling (requires training as a facilitator and there is a cost for the survey) but there are other options too
- Pre-marriage counselling can be provided by you or someone else

Before the ceremony - vows/content

- Most couples will have some idea what they want included in their ceremony
- Build the ceremony around their desires, the legal requirements and your role as a Minister of Religion
- Things to consider: music, Scripture, prayers, family or cultural elements, signing of the register, sermon, CCLI
- Vows: legal vows, promise vows, exchange of ring vows (legal vows - ALL CAPS - are required)
- SA Ceremonies Book (2018) has three alternatives for vows: traditional, alternative traditions, alternative contemporary

Before the ceremony - rehearsal

- Helps settle nerves, remove worry about the unknown, allows everyone to become familiar with what will happen on the day
- Usually the day/evening prior at the venue
- May be the first time that the bridal party is together as a whole
- Rehearse the ceremony covering practicalities such as where to stand, how long it takes to walk down the aisle, sound system, who's saying what and when, who's holding the rings, who has to sign the register and where etc.
- Check pen works (use nice pens, not ugly cheap pens)
- Can leave out some details (e.g., no need to deliver your sermon, some couples may like to keep any personal vows as a surprise)
- Can arrange or clarify last-minute details or set up decor and confirm any outstanding paperwork

The ceremony

- Arrive early, well-prepared with all necessary paperwork
- Last-minute sound check
- Try to be relaxed and enjoy it - you're prepared!
- Ensure all legal components included
- Ensure all paperwork signed properly
- Present marriage certificate to the couple

After the ceremony

- Lodge paperwork with state/territory in which you conducted the wedding (may differ from the state/territory in which you are registered)
 - can be in person, by post or online
- Check in with couple (after honeymoon) that they know how to order their legal wedding certificate
- Can do follow-up with things like Prepare/Enrich

Paperwork

- list/links to all paperwork

Your registration

- The Salvation Army registers you as an Minister of Religion in order to be an authorised celebrant (you complete the paperwork, only after commissioning)

What can I do now?

- Until you are registered with the Attorney General's Department as a Minister of Religion, you are not authorised to perform weddings
- You can assist
- You can seek opportunities to observe the "behind the scenes" with a TSA Officer



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THE NATIONAL LEARNING

CENTRE OF THE SALVATION ARMY

