

I'm not a robot





































If you are considering getting ordained online to officiate weddings in Texas, then you have come to the right place. The first thing you should know is that it is 100% legal for you to get ordained online in Texas to officiate weddings. Keep reading to learn more about why online ordinations are legal in Texas and how you can get ordained to officiate weddings anywhere in the State. 5 Texas Online Ordination Facts " (a) The following persons are authorized to conduct a marriage ceremony: (1) a licensed or ordained Christian minister or priest; (2) a Jewish rabbi; (3) a person who is an officer of a religious organization and who is authorized by the organization to conduct a marriage ceremony;... " Texas Statutes § 2.202 Does the Texas government recognize online ordained ministers? Yes. As clearly stated in the State Law, ministers that were ordained online are no different than ministers ordained by any other means, be it in-person, or through years of seminary study. Ordained means ordained. Period. Get Ordained Now Are wedding officiants required to register with the Texas Government? This may come as a surprise to you, but wedding officiants in Texas do not have to register with any government office before or after officiating wedding ceremonies. There are no laws in Texas requiring that officiants register with any government office and there is no government office charged with such a responsibility. What Texas government office must the officiant contact before performing marriage? None. The Texas government does not have any office that registers, certifies, or licenses wedding officiants. Simply put, at no point in your journey from ordination to officiating are you required to contact or register with any Texas government office. What is the minimum age allowed for a wedding officiant in Texas? In Texas all wedding officiants must be at least 18 years old to be able to legally solemnize marriage. Basically, in addition to being an ordained minister, you must also be a legal adult. How Are Texas Online Ordinations Legal? To better understand the legal underpinnings of how online ordinations work in relation to gaining the authority to officiate weddings in Texas, it is helpful to familiarize yourself with an esoteric legal term, "Solemnization of Marriage". Solemnization of Marriage is simply a fancy way of saying, "Perform Marriage", "Conduct a Wedding", or "Officiate a Wedding". Solemnize is the official act of conducting a wedding ceremony. This is how the act of performing a wedding ceremony is described in the Texas Statutes. Below is the law that specifies who exactly can Solemnize Marriage in Texas: (a) The following persons are authorized to conduct a marriage ceremony: (1) a licensed or ordained Christian minister or priest; (2) a Jewish rabbi; (3) a person who is an officer of a religious organization and who is authorized by the organization to conduct a marriage ceremony; (4) a justice of the supreme court, judge of the court of criminal appeals, justice of the courts of appeals, judge of the district, county, and probate courts, judge of the county courts at law, judge of the courts of domestic relations, judge of the juvenile courts, retired justice or judge of those courts, justice of the peace, retired justice of a municipal court, retired judge of a municipal court, associate judge of a statutory probate court, retired associate judge of a statutory probate court, associate judge of a county court at law, retired associate judge of a county court at law, or judge or magistrate of a federal court of this state, and (5) a retired judge or magistrate of a federal court of this state. (b) For the purposes of Subsection (a)(4), a retired judge or justice is a former judge or justice who is vested in the Judicial Retirement System of Texas Plan One or the Judicial Retirement System of Texas Plan Two or who has an aggregate of at least 12 years of service as judge or justice of any type listed in Subsection (a)(4). (b-1) For the purposes of Subsection (a)(5), a retired judge or magistrate is a former judge or magistrate of a federal court of this state who is fully vested in the Federal Employees Retirement System under 28 U.S.C. Section 371 or 377. (c) Except as provided by Subsection (d), a person commits an offense if the person knowingly conducts a marriage ceremony without authorization under this section. An offense under this subsection is a Class A misdemeanor. (d) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly conducts a marriage ceremony of a minor whose marriage is prohibited by law or of a person who by marrying commits an offense under Section 25.01, Penal Code. An offense under this subsection is a felony of the third degree. If this law looks like an indecipherable wall of text, don't worry. Let's focus in on the part that is relevant to you. "(a) The following persons are authorized to conduct a marriage ceremony: (1) a licensed or ordained Christian minister or priest; (2) a Jewish rabbi; (3) a person who is an officer of a religious organization and who is authorized by the organization to conduct a marriage ceremony." This law allows for people of any religious faith to self actualize their ability to officiate wedding ceremonies. Beyond being articulated in the Texas Statutes, this right is also enshrined in the 1st amendment of the US Constitution: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." We hope this better explains the legal foundation for why you absolutely have the right to officiate wedding ceremonies in Texas as an online ordained minister. As long as you are a member of any religious institution that grants you the authority to solemnize marriage, you are good to go. So what are you waiting for? Begin Ordination Texas Official Government Registration We said before but it bears repeating. In Texas, wedding officiants are not required to register with any government officials. The government in Texas does not impose any officiant registration process whatsoever. At no point in your journey from getting ordained to officiating the wedding ceremony are you required to complete government paperwork confirming your status as a wedding officiant. Once you are an online ordained minister you instantly have the legal ability to perform marriage anywhere in Texas. Though there is no legal requirement to prove your standing as an Ordained Minister with any Texas government office, we do recommend that you keep personal records of your official Ministry Credentials. A physical copy of your Ordination Certification is useful to have in the event that the couple or anyone else affiliated with the wedding asks to see proof of your ordination. If you choose to get ordained with American Marriage Ministries, consider ordering one of the following packages. In addition to your official ordination certificate you will also receive your "AMM Minister's Manual" and "Asked To Officiate". Both of these books cover all of the important information you need to know regarding your legal duties as a wedding officiant and your ceremonial responsibilities, including how to best prepare for the ceremony. Signature Wedding Official Package Minister Ordination Package How Do I Prepare For Officiating Weddings in Texas? Getting ordained is just the first step. The bulk of your time and energy will be taken up in preparing for the wedding ceremony. We know that conducting a wedding ceremony is a big responsibility. And though it is a joyous experience it is also one that needs to be taken very seriously, especially for your role as the wedding officiant. We will walk you through the process from both the legal and ceremonial aspects of your role as the wedding officiant. Check out our page How To Officiate Weddings to get started. Here we cover the things that you need to do before the wedding to best prepare for officiating a wedding ceremony. For more information on officiating a wedding ceremony, visit the Official American Marriage Ministries website. There you will find the most comprehensive officiant training materials you can find online. Many of the people that get ordained online have never officiated a wedding before. We know that this can seem intimidating and have anticipated your need to understand the entire process. Our mission is to empower you not just to officiate weddings, but to do so with skill, confidence, and grace. We say, a bit of style. Officiating a wedding in Texas can be broken down into two responsibilities. These are: Non-Legal Duty - Officiating the Wedding Ceremony Legal Duty - Signing the Marriage License To learn more about preparing for the wedding ceremony, including how to write a wedding ceremony script, check out the Official Training on the American Marriage Ministries website. Keep reading to learn more about the officiant's legal responsibilities regarding the marriage license. Texas Wedding Official Legal Responsibilities Your one legal responsibility as a wedding officiant in Texas is to sign the marriage license for the couple. This is a simple bureaucratic process that is really no different than signing any other type of legal contract. However since it is not every day that you fill out marriage licenses, you may find some of the fields confusing at first glance. We have deconstructed the process of completing a marriage license into easy-to-follow instructions in case you find something confusing along the way. We understand how important it is to get this right, so keep reading for instructions on how to complete an Texas marriage license. How To Fill Out an Texas Marriage License It is your responsibility as the wedding officiant to sign the marriage license on the wedding day. We have broken this duty down into four simple steps: STEP 1 - ASK THE COUPLE TO PRESENT THEIR MARRIAGE LICENSE At some point on the wedding day, you need to ask the couple to present their marriage license. Generally this happens immediately following the ceremony while everyone heads out to the reception. Though this doesn't have to be the case, as the marriage license can be completed at any time on the wedding day before or after the ceremony. STEP 2 - CONFIRM THAT THE MARRIAGE LICENSE IS VALID Before you start filling out the license, you need to confirm that it is turned in by the correct person. This is determined by three laws that specify the marriage license. According to the TEXAS STATUTES § 2.202 - This is an Excerpt. 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If you're looking to learn how to get ordained in Texas, our officiant training resources are the best, available both online and in print. We make ordination easy so that you can focus on conducting an awesome wedding ceremony. And that's not just us saying it. AMM is an inclusive institution. We welcome people of all backgrounds. It is not important to us if you are black or white, religious or non-religious, rich or poor, gay or straight. What is important is that you have a sincere desire to officiate weddings for people you care about. We support your right to officiate weddings that reflect your values, the couple's, and your community's. Texas Marriage Official License As an online ordained minister, you are one step closer to performing marriage in Texas. In addition to our free online ordination, we provide all the officiant training materials you need to learn how to officiate a wedding in Texas with confidence. 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Part of the proceeds goes to our charitable activities, which supports other non-profit charities such as Girls Education Mentoring Services and Musicales, as well as funding our legal and social advocacy efforts to ensure marriage equality across the country. When you purchase a package from us, you get your official ordination certificate and you get to help support a positive cause! To learn more about American Marriage Ministries, check out our About Us page. If you have further questions, feel free to visit our FAQ or simply contact us. FAQs Do I have to be ordained to perform a marriage ceremony in Texas? Yes, to solemnize a marriage in Texas, you must be ordained. According to Texas Family Code Section 2.202, authorized officiants include ordained ministers, priests, rabbis, and other authorized persons of any recognized religious organization 18 years or older. 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Our online ordination process is recognized under the 1st Amendment of the US Constitution, enabling you to become a wedding officiant without any financial burden. Although the steps involved in how to get ordained in Texas are free, please note that some counties may require a nominal fee for filing your credentials or for official copies of a marriage license. These fees vary by location and are generally minimal. Does Texas recognize online ordained ministers? Yes, Texas recognizes ministers ordained online as legitimate. Learning how to become ordained in Texas is as valid as traditional routes such as seminaries or other religious training. By going through the AMM ordination program, you're legally recognized to support love and commitment across the state. How long does it take to get ordained in Texas? Getting ordained in Texas through AMM is simple and quick. The process can be completed online in just a few minutes at no cost. Once you apply, you will instantly receive your ordination certificate and all necessary ministerial credentials via email. No waiting period or residency requirement allows you to start officiating weddings and signing marriage licenses right away. How long does getting ordained in Texas last? Once you become ordained in Texas as an AMM minister, your ordination is valid for life. No state or county registrations or maintenance fees are required for wedding officiants to keep their status active. However, it's essential to keep your ordination certificate and any related documents safe, as you may need to present them to the county clerks in the future. Learning how to be ordained in Texas through AMM guarantees a lifetime of opportunities to officiate weddings without additional paperwork. Last Updated: October 11th, 2023 Who Can Officiate Weddings in Texas? The Texas Marriage Laws specify who can legally perform marriage in the State. 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Part of the proceeds goes to our charitable activities, which supports other non-profit charities such as Girls Education Mentoring Services and Musicales, as well as funding our legal and social advocacy efforts to ensure marriage equality across the country. When you purchase a package from us, you get your official ordination certificate and you get to help support a positive cause! To learn more about American Marriage Ministries, check out our About Us page. If you have further questions, feel free to visit our FAQ or simply contact us. FAQs Do I have to be ordained to perform a marriage ceremony in Texas? Yes, to solemnize a marriage in Texas, you must be ordained. According to Texas Family Code Section 2.202, authorized officiants include ordained ministers, priests, rabbis, and other authorized persons of any recognized religious organization 18 years or older. 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