



**MICHIGAN
ASSOCIATION
OF MAYORS**

Conducting *Marriage Ceremonies* Keep it the fun part of the job

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There is a how-to guide for weddings provided by MAM and MML

- This guide is very comprehensive and is provided for you.

1972 Public Act 211

- In order to relieve pressure on the court system, the Legislature allowed mayors to officiate weddings in the State of Michigan.
- The amendment to the wedding statute required: If a mayor of a city solemnizes a marriage, the mayor shall charge and collect a fee to be determined by the council of that city, which shall be paid to the city treasurer and deposited in the general fund of the city at the end of the month.

2006 Public Act 613

- Don Williamson, the mayor of Flint in 2006, really enjoyed officiating wedding ceremonies. However, at the time, Flint was not a destination that people wanted to get married.
- An amendment requested by Mayor Williamson was adopted by the Legislature that now permits a mayor to officiate anywhere in the county where the mayor's city is located.

Current wording of the statute:

“A mayor of a city, anywhere in a county in which that city is located.”

Issues you personally need to consider...

- The statute does not require you to officiate at a wedding.
- The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled in *Obergefell v Hodges*, 576 U.S. 644 (2015) that same sex marriages are legal.
- Remember, the office of mayor is a civil office not a religious office.

Issues you personally need to consider...

- Since the office of mayor is a civil office, you may not discriminate against any protected class of persons.
- If you personally find it objectionable, just do not officiate at any wedding as you are not required to do so.

Remember, this is one of the most important events in a couple's life.

- Stuff happens...keep it going! Not all rehearsed events happens the way it was planned.
- Keep the couple calm, everything will turn out right!
- Enjoy one of the great parts of the job!

We love where you live.

And we're here to help!

www.mml.org

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