

Rev. Tom's Rates

Your wedding ceremony is a once in a lifetime event which uniquely gathers those who are most important to you for a celebration of the greatest thing in life: finding love! It is far more than a legal maneuver, it is a human ritual created to express a reality too deep for words. Your celebration of love should be an EXPERIENCE that deeply and joyfully engages you and your guests.

My basic rate for Saturday evening weddings, May through October is \$550 and additional \$150 for a rehearsal. This rate is for a fully personalized wedding ceremony which includes telling your story as part of the wedding (if you choose). It includes travel unless the location is greater than 30 miles from Tom's office on the northwest side of Chicago* but does not include parking (if there is a charge to park at the wedding location).

Holiday weekend weddings during this time are the same price as the Saturday evening weddings (Memorial Day weekend, 4th of July weekend, Labor Day weekend).

Weddings that are Friday evening, early Saturday afternoon, or Sunday can qualify for a 10-15% discount as do weddings that are November through April (due to lower demand; though this is considered the 'off season', any time is beautiful time for a wedding and to celebrate love!)

Weddings with less than 10 people attending can qualify for up to a 40% discount any time of the year depending on services needed. I charge less for these small private events not because I offer less but because most ceremonies that small are (and should be) shorter and require less planning and preparation. Ceremonies are still fully customized. In summary, rates are more differentiated for WHEN they are rather than levels of service. Given my view of weddings as celebrations of love and 'events of a lifetime', there really isn't a lower level of service that I offer. However, if your ceremony is at a low-demand time (e.g. weekdays that aren't holidays) and require less preparation (such as a 10 minute ceremony for a very small number of attendees), then I am open to lower my fees further.

Do I ever charge more than these rates? Yes. I do belong to different referral networks of wedding ministers and some of these networks have rates that are higher. I pay these networks for referrals so the overall cost if you come to me from one of these networks can be higher.

Do I ever charge less than these rates? Yes. I do consider my rates very reasonable and a fantastic value just as they are here. However, there are considerations where I am open to negotiate a lower rate than the above. If the only reason you would not book with me is because my cost is higher than another officiant's, I would consider adjusting my rate lower given consideration for the actual value of what I provide and/or your financial constraints.

Value is the primary consideration when looking at my rates. I give the same or better service than those who routinely charge twice as much. But there are those who do charge less than I do and if your main consideration is cost or if your view of a wedding ceremony is that it is just a legal necessity with minimum importance, then I'm probably not going to be a good fit for you price-wise. But if you really want to celebrate your love in a memorable and meaningful way, I look forward to talking with you!

* (greater than 30 miles would cost an additional \$50 per hour of driving)