

Wedding Officiant Cost Guide

[Location: Charlotte, NC](#)

Average Officiant cost \$350

Lower range \$100 or less Upper range \$650 or more Most couples spend between \$250 - \$450

How much does a wedding officiant cost?

While a wedding officiant cost can vary depending on where you are in the country, along with a number of other factors, the average cost in the U.S. is \$300 with most couples spending between \$200 to \$450. Remember that this is only an average, and wedding officiant prices can differ from city to city and officiant to officiant. Additional expenses, like travel fees and rehearsal time, can add on to a wedding officiant's costs.

What does an officiant at a wedding do?

A wedding officiant has an essential role on your big day—performing your ceremony and ensuring that you and your partner are actually married. A wedding officiant can be a religious figure, like a priest, rabbi, or minister, but can also be a secular officiant like a judge, a justice of the peace, or a professional officiant who is legally allowed to perform weddings in the state where your wedding is being held. The most obvious role of a wedding officiant is to actually prepare and perform the ceremony. Whether you choose a religious or secular officiant or want a traditional or more modern ceremony, it is his or her job to work with you to create a meaningful and special experience for you, your partner and your guests. But there's an important legal component to a ceremony officiant's role, too. While you and your partner need to actually obtain the marriage license, your officiant will ensure that it is filled out, signed, and sent to the proper office based on your state's marriage license laws.

Your officiant may also provide premarital counseling, and/or attend your rehearsal to ensure things run smoothly on your big day.

How much do I pay Pastor Dave to marry me?

Pastor Dave, like many religious officiants don't have a set fee, so it can be a bit confusing to figure out how much to pay him. Pastor Dave is paid through a "Love Offering" or a donation, anywhere from \$25 to \$500 or more. The amount you donate to Pastor Dave does not include the mileage fee, as this fee offsets Pastor Dave's cost to officiate your wedding. If you're unsure, don't be afraid to ask.

When do you have to make the Love Offering, and how?

The Love Offering is typically placed in an envelope along with the marriage license.

What should I consider when determining the size of the Love Offering?

When it comes to your wedding officiant's cost, it's more than just showing up on your wedding day to perform your ceremony. A typical wedding officiant's cost includes the following:

- **Prep work:** There's a lot of preparation that goes into making your ceremony a success. Your officiant will meet with you before your wedding to craft a ceremony that's unique and meaningful to you, whether that means including religious elements, family traditions, readings you like, and more. Creating a ceremony plan takes at least three to four hours, not including edits and communication with you. If you're writing your own wedding vows (36 percent of couples do!), your officiant can assist you with that as well.
- **Travel and event time:** You're paying for your officiant's time and presence at your wedding. And if your officiant is traveling a long distance to your event, you may incur additional travel charges.
- **License handling:** Your officiant is responsible for making sure your license is properly filled out, signed, and sent back within the required time frame.
- **Rehearsal time:** Your officiant may or may not attend your rehearsal, but if he or she does, it's likely an extra charge.
- **Business expenses:** From phone service and Internet to education and marketing, your wedding officiant cost probably includes these and more business expenses to ensure he or she can work efficiently and be as responsive as possible.

How much should you tip Pastor Dave?

Well, let's be honest, the Love Offering is really a tip, but if you feel that Pastor Dave has done an exceptional job, you are welcome to offer up a tip, this is completely up to you. Don't forget to review Pastor Dave on WeddingWire, as well.

What do I need to ask my officiant before my wedding?

It's important to meet with your wedding officiant before booking him or her. Once booked you will likely meet and communicate with your officiant several times, so that he or she can get to know you and your future spouse, as well as what you're looking for in a ceremony. Obviously, it's important for your officiant to know your wedding date and time, and venue, but there are some essential questions to ask your wedding officiant as well:

- Do you have restrictions on the type of ceremony you will perform?
- How many times will we meet before the wedding? Do we meet in person or are you open to meeting via Skype or video chat?
- What is your fee? Are there any additional charges?
- How will you be dressed?
- How long is the ceremony?
- Do you attend the rehearsal?

- Can friends and family members participate in my ceremony?
- Can you provide guidance on the marriage license process in my state?
- Can we write our own vows?
- Are there other personal touches we can add on to our ceremony?
- Can we receive premarital counseling from you?
- What is the best way to contact you?