



Frequently Asked Questions

- **We want a personalized ceremony.** How can you help us? I can absolutely create a ceremony that reflects your unique love story, values, and vision. Whatever option you choose, together we'll craft a ceremony that truly feels like *yours*, with as many personal touches as you'd like to include!
- **What is the difference between a funeral and celebration of life?** A funeral is typically held shortly after a person's passing and often follows a traditional structure, sometimes with strong faith-based elements. It usually takes place in a church or funeral home and provides a formal space for mourning.

In contrast, a Celebration of Life is a more personalized gathering that can take place soon after death or even weeks, months, or years later. It focuses on honoring the individual's life and legacy in a meaningful way, incorporating creative elements and taking place in any location that holds significance to the loved one and their family. It may or may not include content that reflect the decedents spirituality or religious beliefs.

- **Do you have a certain style to your ceremonies?** Connection and relationship are at the heart of everything I do, and that's reflected in my ceremonies. You can expect a warm and heartfelt approach that honors the significance of the occasion, with a touch of lightheartedness where it fits. My friends often describe me as calm, grounded, and easy-going, qualities I bring to every ceremony to create a relaxed and meaningful experience.
- **How long does the ceremony take?** A wedding ceremony ranges from 15 minutes to 45 minutes, depending on the service options and elements you choose to include. End of Life Celebrations are usually between 30 - 45 minutes.
- **How many meetings are required before the ceremony or service?** For wedding ceremonies, we typically begin with one in-person meeting, followed by additional consultations via email, Zoom, phone, or text as needed. This allows us ample opportunities to collaborate and refine the details of your ceremony.

- **What is your process for creating an End of Life End of Life Ceremony?** Planning usually starts with an initial in-person meeting with close family members. Additional Zoom or phone meetings may be arranged with individual family members or friends to gather insights for a highly personalized ceremony or to coordinate those who wish to speak at the gathering.
- **Do you support the LGBTQ2S+ Community?** Absolutely—I wholeheartedly support the LGBTQ2S+ community. Love is love, and I celebrate it in all its beautiful forms. As a member of the community myself, this is deeply personal and meaningful to me.
- **What will you wear to the ceremony?** You can count on me to dress in a way that respects the tone, formality and theme of your event, whether it's casual or more formal. While I'm not a "dress and pearls" type, I do clean up well and will ensure my attire complements the style of your ceremony!
- **What happens if you are sick on the day?** I am one of those people who rarely is under the weather, lucky me (and you)! On the off chance that did happen, I am part of a supportive network of wonderful celebrants who serve Vancouver Island and beyond. It's common practice within our group to step in for each other when needed.

In such a situation, the retainer you've paid would remain with me as it covers the preparation I've done for your ceremony. The celebrant standing in would then receive the remainder of the fee for delivering the service. This ensures everything proceeds smoothly and you're well taken care of, no matter what.

- **How many weddings do you do on one day?** I typically officiate one wedding to give my full attention to your special moment. On rare occasions, I may take on two, but only if the timing and logistics allow me to provide the same level of care and dedication to each ceremony.
- **Where can we meet to discuss the service?** I provide a no-obligation initial meeting to get acquainted, discuss your needs, and determine if we're a good match. If you're located in the Cowichan Valley, I prefer meeting in person at a coffee shop. For those farther away, I'm happy to arrange a Zoom meeting or phone call. For wedding ceremonies, this typically involves both partners. End of Life ceremonies start with a visit with the client (the person who is contracting me) and others they want to include (usually closest family members or friends). Typically, this meeting may be in their home or another location of their choice.
- **What process do you follow on the day of the ceremony?** On the day of the ceremony or service, I'll arrive at least 30 minutes early to handle any last-minute details, set up my

materials, and help ensure a warm welcome for your guests. I'll then follow the script and program you've approved, delivering the ceremony exactly as planned. Once the service concludes, I will stay for a few minutes and then say my goodbyes.

- **Do you provide support with eulogies?** Yes, I provide support with eulogies. After speaking with you and anyone you'd like to involve, I'll craft a eulogy that truly captures the essence of your loved one and the legacy they've left behind. If you prefer, I can also assist you in writing the eulogy yourself. And if you'd like, I can present it during the service as well. My goal is to ensure the eulogy is meaningful and reflective of their life.
- **What paperwork is required and what do you need from me/us?** If you're getting married, you'll need to purchase a marriage license within 30 days of your wedding. Additionally, for all services, we'll have a Service Agreement in place to make sure we're aligned on all the details and elements of your ceremony. This way, everything is clear and agreed upon ahead of time!
- **Are you willing to travel and what is your mileage fee?** I serve southern, central and the west coast of Vancouver Island, and I'm also open to supporting off-island gatherings when possible. I offer complimentary travel within 15 km of Duncan. For events farther afield, I charge a mileage fee of .65/km. On rare occasions where an overnight stay is necessary, accommodation costs may need to be covered.
- **What do I need to provide for the ceremony?** Generally, you'll need to provide any audio-visual equipment required for the ceremony, as well as any props or objects for specific rituals (like candles). Additionally, if you have any keepsake or memorial mementos for your guests, those would be provided by you as well. I'll be there to help guide the flow of everything!
- **Do you help with writing our vows?** Absolutely! I can support you in writing your own vows, or if you prefer, I can craft them for you based on the information you've shared. Either way, your vows will be heartfelt and personal, capturing the essence of your relationship.
- **Do we require a rehearsal prior to the wedding?** A rehearsal can be a great way to ensure everything flows smoothly on the big day, and it's available as an option if it's not included in your chosen service. For simple ceremonies, we can do a run-through by Zoom before the event to cover all the key details. This ensures you feel confident and ready, without the need for an in-person rehearsal if you prefer!

Other questions?

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at lifestidesceremonies@gmail.com!