Introduction

I had been officiating wedding for over about 5 years before I ever got my first call to officiate a wedding where the groom was incarcerated. I was a little shocked; I had not thought about someone in jail getting married and was totally unprepared to handle such a request. What ceremony would I use? Do they exchange rings? What does one wear to a Jail wedding? I had so many questions. My only jail experience was what I saw on T.V. and that was images of having to go through a strip search and dark hallways with people hanging out of their cells saying rude things. I politely declined and thought that was the end of it.

The Universe has a funny way of saying “now is the time to grow.”

After the Third request in about 6 months, I thought this might be something to look into! So I did what any bride would do and searched for a Minister that officiates incarcerated weddings.

To my surprise, there were not many who even said or would do a Jail wedding. Those who did I was shocked at the price they charged. I try to be reasonable with my prices and have compassion for people who are going through a tuff time. I know we have expenses we need to cover but really where do you draw the line as just say no.

With the next call, I let the bride know I needed more information and let her know this would be our first one but we were willing. So, we were off on a really wonderful journey, helping people who for whatever reason wanted to get married while their spouse is in jail or prison.

We don’t ask the why or how they got there we have a firm belief if the state will issue the license we’ll perform the ceremony.

The first time I spoke with a Chaplain I ask why they don’t do the officiating. He said it was considered a conflict of interest. Good

It turns out it’s not that hard, at least in Arizona. The Bride is your main point of contact once you are approved by the Chaplain of the jail. County weddings are preformed in the evening and the guards are your witnesses.

State facilities you have to provide your witnesses and they make the couples do a lot more paperwork. So, if you are wondering it can be done and we have even done them for people who the Bride is the one in. Always happy to help people.