Handfasting Ceremony Officiant Agreement

Effective date: _____

Officiant/Celebrant: _____, of _____, email/phone _____ ("Officiant")

Couple: _____ and _____, email/phone _____ (together, "Couple")

1. Ceremony details and services

The ceremony is scheduled for _____ at _____ (outdoor/evening location: _____), beginning at _____ and ending at _____. Officiant will provide the following: a planning consultation; a customized handfasting ceremony of approximately _____ minutes; ceremony script/rehearsal: _____; officiating; and, if legally authorized and requested, completion of the marriage-license portion.

The handfasting ritual will include _____ cords/ribbons, supplied by _____, with the following symbolic preferences, readings, vows, music, and participants: _____. The Couple understands that the ritual is a symbolic binding of hands and does not itself create a legal marriage. A legal marriage requires a valid license and any state-required filings, witnesses, or other formalities. The Couple is responsible for obtaining a valid license and delivering it to Officiant by _____; Officiant may decline to perform any legal solemnization without it.

2. Outdoor/evening conditions and safety

Couple will obtain all location permissions and advise Officiant of access, parking, terrain, lighting, sound limits, weather plan, and emergency contact by _____. For evening events, Couple will provide safe, adequate lighting and a clear path to/from the ceremony location. For outdoor events, the backup location or rain/wind plan is: _____. Officiant may modify, shorten, move, delay, or suspend the ceremony where conditions are unsafe, unlawful, or would materially prevent performance.

3. Fee and payment

Total fee: **$**_____. A nonrefundable booking retainer of **$**_____ is due at signing. The balance of **$**_____ is due by _____. Included travel: _____ miles from _____; additional travel is $_____ per mile / $_____. Other approved expenses

are: _____. Payments may be made by _____. Late amounts may incur $_____ and/or _____% per month where lawful.

4. Changes, cancellation, and force majeure

The Couple will approve the final ceremony elements by _____. Changes after that date may require an additional fee and are subject to Officiant's availability. The Couple may cancel by written notice. The retainer remains earned. For cancellation more than _____ days before the ceremony, Officiant will return payments beyond the retainer less completed work and nonrecoverable costs. Within _____ days, Client owes amounts paid plus completed work and committed costs, up to the contract price.

A rescheduled date is effective only if Officiant agrees and is available. Payments may transfer once to a date within _____ months, subject to a $_____ change fee, or cancellation terms apply. If severe weather, disaster, government action, epidemic, unsafe conditions, venue closure, or another event beyond reasonable control prevents performance, the parties will seek a mutually available alternate date. If that is not possible, Officiant will return unearned funds after completed work and nonrecoverable costs.

5. Liability and general terms

Couple is responsible for guests, cords and props supplied by Couple, venue rules, and safe conditions. Officiant is not liable for venue issues, weather, a defective/late license, guest conduct, delays, or conditions beyond Officiant's reasonable control. To the extent allowed by law, Officiant's total liability is limited to amounts paid under this Agreement, and neither party is liable for consequential damages.

This Agreement is the entire agreement and may be changed only by signed writing. If one provision is unenforceable, the rest remains effective. The law of **State of** _____ governs. The parties will first try good-faith discussion and then mediation before suit, except for urgent relief. Electronic signatures are valid.

Couple will defend and hold Officiant harmless from third-party claims, damages, costs, or fees arising from Couple's or guests' conduct or venue permissions, except to the extent caused by Officiant's negligence. To the extent allowed by law, the prevailing party in any action to enforce this Agreement may recover reasonable attorney fees and costs. Disputes may be heard only in the courts of the State named above; claims eligible for small-claims court may instead be brought there.

_____

Partner 1

_____

Date

_____

Partner 2

_____

Date

_____

Officiant/Celebrant

_____

Date

Free template from vowsign.app. Fill it in and send it for e-signature at vowsign.app. General information, not legal advice; have a licensed attorney in your state review any contract before you use it.