



Minnesota Rabbinical Association Marriage and Wedding Guidelines



The rabbis of the Minnesota Rabbinical Association have long guided many in the Minnesota Jewish community in the celebration of marriage. We offer the following statement of values as a guide for our community. We encourage all to reflect on them especially before planning a wedding:

Marriage:

We affirm the sanctity of marriage reflecting the value Judaism places on committed, monogamous relationships.



Preparing for the Wedding

We value the months of preparation leading up to a wedding ceremony and we pray for a long, healthy marriage.

We invite couples to be in conversation with their rabbi about choosing a date and location of the ceremony before any arrangements are made. It is appropriate for the home rabbi to extend invitations to other clergy who might be involved.

We require pre-marital counseling.

Ceremony and Celebration

The location for the ceremony ought to reflect the sacred quality of the occasion. In most cases, the synagogue best achieves this ideal. A home or a natural setting may also inspire a sense of *kedushah*/holiness.

The celebration of a wedding is a joy for the community. It is appropriate to celebrate in a way that reflects Jewish values. Judaism places a value on:

- modesty in dress and all aspects of celebration.
- moderation in the choice of decorations and flowers.
- minimization of waste in the celebration and consciousness of impact on the environment.
- food that is appropriate to the celebration of a *seudat mitzvah* (the celebration of the mitzvah of the wedding) as interpreted by our religious traditions.
- giving *tzedakah* in order to remember our responsibility to others even as we are celebrating our joyful occasion (e.g. giving 3% to Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger or to other worthy causes that are meaningful to the celebrating family).

The rabbis of the MRA are glad to assist you as you contemplate and plan your wedding. We wish you a *mazal tov* and all of the best so that your marriage will be a blessing to you, your family, your community, to the Holy One of Blessing, to our people, and to the world.