

HITCHING POST WEDDING POLICY, RULES, AND REGULATIONS REGARDING MARRIAGE CEREMONIES

Statements of Purpose

The Hitching Post is a religious corporation owned solely by ordained ministers of the Christian religion who operate this entity as an extension of their sincerely held religious beliefs and in accordance with their vows taken as Christian ministers. The purpose of the Hitching Post is to help people create, celebrate, and build lifetime, monogamous, one-man-one-woman marriages as defined by the Holy Bible.

The Christian religion requires that all its adherents, and especially its ministers, apply their religious precepts and doctrines to all facets of their lives, including their work and the operation of their businesses. For this reason, the Hitching Post reserves the right to refuse a request for services that would require the entity to engage in conduct that conflicts with its owners' sincerely held religious beliefs and the ministerial vows taken by the owners.

The Hitching Post engages in its own expression through the services that it provides. In so doing, The Hitching Post intentionally expresses public messages that promote aspects of its owners' Christian religion and that are not inconsistent with those sincerely held beliefs. For this reason, The Hitching Post reserves the right to refuse a request for services that would require the entity to engage in or host expression that violates its owners' sincerely held religious beliefs. Only Hitching Post's owners and employees perform the weddings at Hitching Post Chapel and other locations scheduled by the Hitching Post. They have ultimate control over the content of the ceremony and will not conduct a ceremony that expresses messages that are inconsistent with their Christian faith.

The Hitching Post provides wedding and marriage-related services for the purpose of publicly expressing and promoting that marriage is the union of one man and one woman, which is consistent with its owners' sincerely held religious beliefs and with their ministerial vows. Any request for wedding and marriage-related services not within this identified purpose is outside the scope of services offered by the Hitching Post.

The Hitching Post, consistent with its owners' sincerely held religious beliefs, provides wedding and marriage-related services also for the purposes of promoting the social institution of marriage as a fundamental building block of our society and promoting the public understanding of marriage as the union of one man and one woman. By furthering these purposes, the Hitching Post endeavors to instill and promote this biblical understanding of marriage and marriage-related values in the communities where it operates. Achieving these goals is important to ensure that marriage remains a vital social institution that uniquely promotes the raising of children by their mother and father.

Rules and Regulations

In light of these purposes specified above, the Hitching Post adheres to the following rules:

- Only the Hitching Post owners and employees may perform wedding ceremonies at the Hitching Post Chapel and other locations scheduled by the Hitching Post. Outside ministers may not perform wedding ceremonies at the Hitching Post Chapel or other locations scheduled by the Hitching Post. Brides and grooms may not invite outside ministers to perform such ceremonies. Outside ministers may come and stand alongside the Hitching Post owner or employee who performs the wedding ceremony. But only the Hitching Post owner or employee may perform the ceremony.
- In accordance with the religious beliefs and ministerial vows of the Hitching Post owners, Hitching Post owners and employees will only perform wedding ceremonies for couples entering into a one biological male and one biological female union. Hitching Post owners and employees will not conduct wedding ceremonies or their equivalent (*i.e.* commitment ceremonies, etc.) for same-sex, polyamorous, bigamous, or any other relationship that is inconsistent with the Hitching Post owners' religious belief that marriage is a union between man and woman.
- In accordance with the religious beliefs and ministerial vows of the Hitching Post owners, Hitching Post owners and employees will perform ceremonies for those of different faiths and religious beliefs (so long as those marriage ceremonies are consistent with the beliefs set forth herein) because marriage is a common grace and creational gift bestowed by God upon all humans for the benefit of human society.
- Persons of all age, race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, marital status, and socioeconomic status are welcomed and encouraged to stand with brides and grooms and to attend wedding ceremonies.
- Persons of all age, race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, marital status, and socioeconomic status are welcomed and encouraged to obtain any resource about marriage provided by the Hitching Post.