

# CEREMONIES WITH LISA

Custom Ceremonies with Heart and Soul

## IMPORTANT ELOPEMENT HOW-TO'S

**Obtaining your Marriage License • Special Clothing/Shoes  
Backup Location • Tips To Coordinate Your Day • Driving Directions**

### Obtaining Your Marriage License

This is the fun to-do for making it legal!

The two of you can obtain your license in person at the Boulder County Clerk office (or any other Colorado County Clerk). If one of you can't be present, there is some absentee paperwork that requires notarization. If you live outside of Colorado, you can decide as to whether you want to have your marriage legally recorded here in Colorado, or if you want to do the ceremony in Colorado and the legal part in your own state. If you're considering the second option, call your local County Clerk to find out what the rules are about this in your own state, and then all of the options will be clear to you.

Depending on the Colorado county, the license usually costs about \$30 and you'll want to obtain it no more than 30 days before the date of your ceremony as it's valid for 30 days.

**IMPORTANT:** If a bride is changing her last name, each county clerk seems to have different rules about what signature to sign on the license, and their rules often change, so I have a hard time keeping up with the different county's rules. If you are a bride changing your name, make sure to ask if they want you to sign with your maiden name or your newly-married name. Then make a note to make sure you remember which one they said because I will ask you when we are signing!

If it's a Colorado license, bring the license to your ceremony, and we'll sign it afterward. You don't need witnesses if it's a Colorado license, but if you want to have two witnesses, you can!

If we're doing a Colorado license, we'll need to get it back to the County Clerk within 60 days. I am happy to take and mail the marriage license... or I can leave it for you to

handle. If I mail your license I will also need the return envelope (crucial), so make sure to also bring the envelope on wedding day. Please note: About 1-2% of the time, a marriage license gets lost in the mail, which then requires you, the couple, to replace it (which includes the hassle of going back to the Clerk & Recorder's office). A way to avoid this is for you to physically take it to the Clerk's office yourself. The other perk about taking it in by hand is that they record it, then hand it right back to you, which is nice because you don't have to wait for it in the mail. I'm absolutely fine with either option, so just let me know which route you'd like to take!

All of the above is generally true, but it's always a good idea to call the County Clerk to verify their rules and also make sure you bring what you need when you visit their office. Here's an example of Boulder County's marriage license application "how-to" page, and you can find the same kind of page for whatever County Clerk you plan to use - just google " \_\_\_\_\_ county marriage license."  
<http://www.bouldercounty.org/records/licenses/pages/obtainmarriagelicense.aspx>

**\*If you are coming from out of state and can't get to the County Clerk here before your ceremony...**

You can have your ceremony, then head to the County Clerk, get your marriage license and sign it together at the County Clerk. In Colorado, you don't need an officiant to make it legal, you two can self-solemnize the license yourselves!

## Special Clothing/Shoes

If you have chosen a mountain location with hiking, it is advisable to wear hiking or athletic shoes for the trail hike, and if you want, you can swap out for more fashionable shoes for photos when we get to the ceremony location. Also, if you don't want your wedding dress to drag in the dirt, have a plan to lift it up while hiking :)

For all locations, especially in May, early June, late September, October or November, please make sure to bring warm clothing with you in case of rain or snow or simply cold weather. Warm hats, a warm coat to throw over your lovely wedding clothes, and hiking or athletic shoes are important to have as backup in case the day brings cold or wet weather. You can have photos taken without all the layers, but it's nice to be able to throw them on for the moments when you're not being photographed and it's cold, rainy, snowy, etc. We'll also envision that you don't need any of this heavy clothing and it's a lovely day, *and at the same time*, it's great to be prepared just in case!

# Backup Location

My commitment is to officiate an outdoor elopement for you rain, snow or shine!

If you have chosen the Flagstaff Mountain location and there is ice or snow on the ground, we will use the Chautauqua Mesa Trail or the Chautauqua lawn as backup. The Chautauqua Mesa Trail is accessible in most weather, and the Chautauqua lawn is accessible in any weather, so all scenarios are covered. I am able to officiate in rain (I have ten white wedding umbrellas), snow and cold temperatures, and it is my commitment to be available for the Chautauqua Lawn location at the very least, should dramatic weather affect your day.

At any point, you may decide that you would prefer to have your ceremony indoors. If this happens, I will then meet you at a location of your choice within the city of Boulder, except any locations in the Boulder Canyon or Sunshine Canyon (these tend to be challenging drives during ice or snow).

Having an indoor backup location is particularly relevant if your ceremony is in May, early June, late September, October or November. If you would like to ensure that you have a backup location, a fun plan is to book lodging that can also double as indoor backup. Here are some ideas for that kind of lodging...

## Chautauqua Cottage Cabins

If you would like to ensure that you have an indoor backup location, an easy and sweet solution is to book a Chautauqua cottage as your lodging. The cottages are like little cabins and provide a mountain-cabin type atmosphere as an indoor solution, plus they double as your lodging.

**Here is the link to learn about and book a Chautauqua cottage, plus there are great photos to show you what they look like inside:**

**<https://www.chautauqua.com/lodging/cottages-lodges/overview/>**

## Air BNB's and VRBO's

You might also explore Air Bnb's ([www.airbnb.com](http://www.airbnb.com)) and VRBO's ([www.vrbo.com](http://www.vrbo.com)) in Boulder that have an atmosphere that you like, and that would do in a pinch for your ceremony. I don't have any to specifically recommend, but you can generally tell which rentals are good by the amount and quality of their reviews.

# To-Do's To Coordinate Your Elopement Day

Here are some very important to-do's to make the day go as smoothly as possible...

## Driving & Arrival

Provide the driving directions in this document to any guests who are driving separately, and to any other wedding vendors who might be joining us, plus provide them with your cell numbers in case they need to contact us.

If you can drive up with guests in one car, or caravan, that is ideal. Tell anyone who is arriving separately that you have my officiant services up until one hour after your start time, so there is not a ton of wiggle room to be late!

\*If you are working with photographer Julie, she and I coordinate together, so you don't have to send her driving directions or notify her of arrival time :)

## Timing On The Day-Of

Make sure to schedule any day-of services with plenty of time to get to the ceremony on time. This might sound a little obvious, but just a little reminder because it's easy to miscalculate or try to fit too much in.

For instance, schedule hair and makeup appointments with plenty of time to get to the ceremony, and allow time to pick up any flowers that you might be picking up on the day-of. It takes about 20 minutes to get to our Flagstaff Mountain parking lot meet spot from downtown Boulder, so allot 40 minutes to make sure you aren't rushed, and to accommodate any extra time if you take a wrong turn.

# Driving Directions for the Flagstaff Mountain location:

Use these driving directions and pix, plus give them to any guests and wedding vendors who will be joining us...

Google Map or GPS to Baseline Rd & Broadway St, Boulder, CO.

Head west (toward the mountains) on Baseline. Just past 6th Street, you'll see a wooden sign on the left that says "Entering Boulder Mountain Parks" and the road will start going up the mountain. **At this point, zero your odometer.**

The road will twist and turn up the mountain, and just before you have gone three miles, start looking for this wooden sign on your right that says "Flagstaff Summit Amphitheater".



Just after the Flagstaff Summit Amphitheater sign is a road on the right with a parking area just as you turn in. Turn in there - that's our meeting spot, right off the road! Once we've all convened, we'll hike down to the ceremony spot together. Here's what the parking lot entrance looks like - there's a sign at the entrance that says "Realization Point" and "Flagstaff Summit 1/2 mile" ....



# Driving Directions for the Chautauqua Mesa Trail & Chautauqua Lawn locations:

Use these driving directions and pix, plus give them to any guests and wedding vendors who will be joining us...

Google Map or GPS to Baseline Rd & Broadway St, Boulder, CO.

Head west (toward the mountains) on Baseline, and just past 9th Street, turn left into Chautauqua Park. Turn left here:



As you turn left into the Park, you'll see the big Chautauqua Lawn on your left, and a little parking area on your right after a 15 mph sign. Here's what the parking area looks like:

Park in the little parking area on your right, which is our meeting spot!



If there is no parking in that parking area on the right (our meeting spot), make note of where that parking area is so that you can make your back to it to meet up. Then, continue driving around the big Chautauqua lawn - you'll see there are parking spots alongside the lawn all the way around the lawn. Find a parking spot, then make your way back to our meeting spot in the little parking area near the entrance.