

Wedding Form Mishkan Chicago

Mazal tov on arriving at this exciting moment in your lives! Please fill out this form and bring it to our first meeting together. Please highlight answers you don't have or know, and we'll work them out.

Once you're Couples Builders at Mishkan, there is no additional cost for your wedding. If you want to make a donation to the Rabbi or her discretionary fund at Mishkan, it's appreciated and totally up to you.

Please order Anita Diamant's The Jewish Wedding Now, and I also recommend reading Dr. John Gottman's Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work, so that you can be informed when we have our conversation(s). As you'll see, there are many options for what to include as meaningful, traditional and creative components of building your Jewish wedding.

Let's get started, shall we?

Section 1: Where, when, who.

Gregorian Date of ceremony:

Hebrew Date of ceremony (hebcad.com does date conversions):

Time: **Before or after sunset:**

Location:

Partner 1

English Name:

Hebrew Name:

Cohen/Levi?

Home Ph:

Work Ph:

Cell:

Address:

Parents/Step-parents:

Parents' address(es):

Siblings:

Children:

Birthdate:

Profession:

Passions:

Twitter handle, website, other relevant social media info:

Partner 2

English Name Hebrew Name

Cohen/Levi?

Home Ph: Work Ph. Cell:

Address:

Parents/Step-parents:

Parents' Address(es):

Siblings:

Children:

Birthdate:

Profession:

Passions:

Twitter handle, website, other relevant social media info:

Ketubah Witnesses (*must be Jewish, not family members, and able to sign names in Hebrew*). An egalitarian traditional wedding can have witness of any gender (a traditional Jewish wedding has two male witnesses). The witnesses cannot be immediate blood related family. One option that strikes a compromise between would be to have 4 witnesses– two men and two women. Some finally go all out and have all their friends and family sign the ketubah as witnesses (though you should designate 2 as the official witnesses). Let me know what you want to do.

- 1.
- 2.
- (3)?
- (4)?

Other Ceremony Details & honors:

Tish:

Bedeken:

Hakafot:

Kittel, Tallit:

Double ring ceremony:

Huppah Holders ? (4 people, not necessary if poles are held by other means, and in that case can be purely symbolic):

Sheva Brachot (7 people you want to say the 7 blessings in Hebrew or English- not necessary, rabbi can do everything, it's just an opportunity to include more friends and family in the ceremony):

Readings throughout the ceremony

Will you be missing anyone at the wedding?

Other questions or ideas you have about the ceremony?

Other life details– What else do you think the rabbi officiating should know about your families, your upbringing, your preferences, your identity as a couple and as individuals?

The Day-of-the-Wedding & Pre-Wedding Details

Checklist of Items to Take Care of Before the Wedding:

1. **Buildership.** Become a Couples Level Builder at Mishkan. Read up about Buildership at mishkanchicago.org/be-a-builder
2. **Wedding Meetings.** Be in contact with Natalie at admin@mishkanchicago.org to schedule your pre-wedding meetings with one of our rabbis.
3. **Auf Ruf.** If you would like to celebrate in community before your wedding, be it a week out or a day out, contact Natalie at admin@mishkanchicago.org.
4. **Personal letters.** Submit them to one of our rabbis two weeks prior to your ceremony so they have the time to craft a ceremony that is uniquely YOU.

Checklist of Items To Bring to the Wedding:

1. Certificate of registry and **Marriage License (from City Hall, get this in advance please!!).**
2. **UNDER THE CHUPPAH: 2 kiddush cups** or wine goblets (a sentimental family one is great, and a wine glass from the party is fine, too). This is for parts 1 and 2 of ceremony.
3. **UNDER THE CHUPPAH: Kosher Wine** (preferably white (G'd forbid a drop of it gets on your dress or shirt)).
4. **UNDER THE CHUPPAH: A glass or incandescent light bulb**, wrapped in napkin and taped shut, or even wrapped in a ziplock.
5. **Huppah** (wedding canopy) if the ceremony is elsewhere than the synagogue sanctuary. (You are encouraged to use a large talit which then becomes a permanent reminder of your wedding day and of your covenantal relationship with God and each other.
6. **Tallit** of sentimental value for blessing at the end (optional, but let me know if you're bringing one and if it has a story)
7. **Small table** at the site of the wedding **under the chuppah**
8. **Music stand under the chuppah**
9. **Kippot** (head coverings) for people who want to cover their heads in a Jewish ceremony. A good option is MayaWorks fair trade kippot, or fabric-based (not leather) kippot are available at <https://www.kippotworld.com/kippot.php?categoria=Fabric&sc=Fabric> Mishkan is more than happy to take your extras off your hands after the ceremony!
10. One or two wedding **rings**.
11. At least one **standing microphone, ideally a lapel mic** for the Rabbi in addition a standing mic, especially if you want me to play guitar.
12. **Auf Ruf.** If you would like to celebrate in community before your wedding, be it a week out or a day out, contact Natalie at admin@mishkanchicago.org.
13. **Personal letters.** Submit them to Rabbi Lizzi 2 weeks prior to your ceremony so she can time to craft a ceremony that is uniquely YOU.

Photography

Photography and video-graphing are permitted at any time. However, please do explain to the photographer and videographer that they must remain silent and discrete throughout. They may not stand under the huppah.

Duration of the Ceremony

Ketubah ceremony, followed by bedecken, should take about 10 minutes. We can talk through the idea of a "fish" "kabbalat panim," which precede the chuppah, as does the ketubah signing. The wedding ceremony under the chuppah will take about 25 minutes.

Expenses & Out of Town Weddings

As Couples or Family Builders at Mishkan, your wedding and the preparation sessions are included. Contact admin@mishkanchicago.org for additional wedding fees. **If the wedding is out of town, it is expected that the couple will pay for the transportation and accommodations of the rabbi** and invite her partner (no need to pay the travel expenses of Rabbi's partner, however).

It's a lot to take in and a lot to keep track of. Just remember, this communal recognition and support for your relationship is a beautiful and memorable moment. Keep taking deep breaths and remember that you're doing this because you love each other and that, at the end of the day, is the most important part of your wedding. **MAZAL TOV!!!**