

Officiation at Interfaith Weddings

Rabbi PJ Schwartz

In recognition of the evolution of Jewish identity and the changing nature of the Jewish family, I will be honored to officiate at a Jewish wedding for an interfaith couple. I have reached this conclusion because I aim to create a Jewish community that is expansive rather than limiting; where doors are opened for those seeking to participate in Jewish life rather than keeping them at a distance; one in which families of every stripe are fully welcomed into Jewish life. Most importantly, I want to welcome people into Jewish life because I believe in the power of Judaism to change lives and to change the world.

“A Jewish wedding for an interfaith couple”

This key term requires some explanation. A Jewish wedding for an interfaith couple means that:

- One member of the couple is Jewish; one is not.
- The wedding ceremony will be recognizably Jewish. A Jewish ceremony will generally include a ketubah, a chuppah, kiddush, the exchange of rings, the seven blessings, the priestly benediction, and the breaking of the glass.
- I will not officiate a wedding ceremony on Shabbat and during major Jewish holy days, such as Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. I will officiate a ceremony on certain Jewish holy days that are not widely practiced within the Reform movement, on a case-by-case basis.
- The couple is committed to creating a Jewish home. I will strongly suggest that the couple participate in an Introduction to Judaism course prior to the wedding when possible, or that they participate actively in the life of this or another congregation.
- Only Jewish clergy will officiate the ceremony. In certain circumstances the couple may invite non-Jewish clergy to participate in the ceremony in a limited way. This might include offering a brief blessing or liturgical passage. In such circumstances it will nonetheless be clear that I am the only officiant.
- I will officiate such weddings here at Temple B’nai Sholom, in another synagogue or in a non-religious space outside Temple B’nai Sholom. I will not officiate such weddings in a house of worship of another faith.