



A further complication for clergy ordination can arise if a tribal member performs the union. Some American Indian traditions require that one goes through specific rituals before performing any ceremony. The tradition might even insist that no paperwork be filed in deference to oral tradition; most states must respect tribal law regarding use of documentation. However, just in case, you need to make sure that either you

or your clergyperson calls and determines whether the arrangement will be considered legal. Few moments can feel more frustrating than attempting to file a marriage license only to discover that after all the effort and ceremony, the state refuses to recognize the union.

For any of these possible problems, you can troubleshoot at <http://www.goddessmoon.org>. The GoddessMoon website offers a list, state-by-state, of marriage laws and clergy resources. This may help both you and your officiant in determining what steps are necessary to prepare for your wedding.

You're Almost Ready

After you find the right person to perform the ceremony, you should make an effort to establish clear communications. Make sure that both you and your selected clergy feel clear about payment, ceremony style, and etiquette expected from the families. Clergy normally request a deposit for services rendered, and payment in full the day of the ceremony. The price should cover the cost of transportation—including to the courthouse to file the marriage license—and any time spent counseling the couple, designing the ritual, and performing the actual service. Also, you should factor any supplies provided by the clergyperson into