

# Wisconsin Ethics Commission

## *For Judges*

### Officiating At A Wedding

A judge should refuse to accept a payment, even if unsolicited, for officiating at a marriage at a courthouse, regardless of the hour at which the marriage is performed. When a judge is offered a payment for officiating at a marriage at a courthouse, the judge should decline it or suggest that it be paid instead to a local charity.

When a monetary payment or honorarium is pressed upon a judge under these circumstances, the judge may accept the payment for transmittal to the appropriate county treasurer or to the director of state courts for deposit. If transmittal to the county treasurer or director of state courts is not practical, the judge may accept the payment for contribution to a charitable organization.

The Ethics Code provides no obstacle to a judge's accepting a payment for officiating at a marriage any place other than a courthouse provided the payment does not exceed a reasonable amount that a member of the clergy might receive under like circumstances and provided the payment could not reasonably be expected to influence the judge's exercise of judicial duties.

The Ethics Code does not require a judge, on his or her Statement of Economic Interest, to report a payment received for officiating at a wedding.