

**The Anglican Cathedral of St. John the Baptist**  
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**Regulations for Weddings**

These regulations cover many of the most commonly asked questions at marriage interviews. If you need further explanation of any of them, do not hesitate to ask the clergy.

1. The clergy are to be consulted well in advance of a proposed marriage. As our Canon (Church Law) on Marriage states, "It shall be the duty of those intending to marry to give due notice to the Minister at least sixty days before the proposed wedding" (Canon XXI, *On Marriage in the Church: The Anglican Cathedral of Canada.*)

2. Couples being married in the Cathedral are expected to attend a Marriage Preparation Course, or complete equivalent preparation. Couples who live away, and who will not be in St. John's to participate in a Marriage Preparation course locally, are to attend a course near where they are residing and have the Certificate of Attendance forwarded to the Cathedral. (A priest in the vicinity will assist in locating appropriate marriage preparation.)

3. **A Marriage Licence is required by law** and the marriage can be solemnized only within a period of thirty days following the date of issue of the licence. This licence may be obtained from a local Issuer of Marriage Licences or from the Division of Vital Statistics, 5 Mews Place, St. John's. The licence should be brought to the Church office as soon as it is obtained, and in any event **at least** four days before the date of the wedding. If you live out of province, contact the Vital Statistics Division early (2 months before your wedding) to find out how to get your licence. [709-729-3308].

4. Banns may be published, but as Banns are no longer required by law, they will only be published on request.

5. Marriage is forbidden by law to any persons under the age of 16 years. Minors (under age 19) require the written consent of their parents to the marriage.

6. Marriages are not solemnized during the two weeks before Easter (including Holy Saturday). Except in July and August when the Choir is on holiday, marriages may not take place in the Cathedral on Wednesdays after 6:00 pm.

7. The Cathedral clergy reserve the right and privilege of officiating at all marriages in the Cathedral. Special consideration will be given to a close relative who is an Anglican priest, or to the Anglican Rector of one of those intending to marry. In all cases, however, one of the Cathedral clergy is to be asked to participate. Other clergy may be invited to assist with the ceremony, but in all such instances, a formal invitation must come from the Rector.

8. Except with the consent of the Cathedral Organist, only she, or, in her absence, an assistant, will play at weddings in the Cathedral. **The choice of music, and of any accompanying musician (including soloist), must have her approval before any decision is made.** Where consent has been given for someone other than the Cathedral Organist or an assistant to play, the normal fee is nonetheless to be paid to the Cathedral Organist or to the assistant, whoever of them would otherwise be playing.

The Cathedral Organist is available for consultation to discuss music for the wedding ceremony. The name and telephone number of the organist are available from the Cathedral Office. If the organist is not consulted at least three weeks prior to the wedding, it will be assumed that music will not be required. The Organist does not usually attend the wedding rehearsal.

Because the Marriage Ceremony is a sacrament of the Church, appropriate music is that which is conducive to worship. Most appropriately they will be selections from Scripture, the Prayer Book, or a standard Hymn Book used in worship. Selections which have secular connotations are not permitted, nor popular songs – which are more appropriate at the reception rather than in the church setting. This would include, but is not limited to, such titles as, *There is Love, Wind Beneath My Wings*, and *You By My Side*.

All music, regardless of the performer, is subject to the approval of the Cathedral Organist in consultation with the Rector. Please direct all inquiries regarding soloists or other accompanists to the Cathedral Organist.

9. **Minimum Fees:**

Officiant	\$125.00*
Organist (if no other musician involved)	\$125.00
Organist (if another musician is involved)	\$150.00
Verger	\$50.00

\*Applicants who are not identifiable contributors to the Cathedral, or who in the previous twelve months have not contributed at least \$250.00, are required to pay an additional fee of \$250.00. As those being married are considered to be adults, parental contributions are not considered for this purpose.

All of these fees are to be paid **no later than the wedding rehearsal**. They are to be put in separate envelopes and given to the officiating priest, or brought to the Cathedral Office. Assisting clergy should be remunerated for their services in accordance with, and in addition to, these fees.

10. If special flowers are wanted in the Sanctuary, the President of the Altar Guild must first be consulted. Her name and number are available from the Cathedral Office. Flowers may be placed near the Chancel steps only if permission is first obtained. Artificial flowers are not permitted, except on pew markers.

11. The marriage services in *The Book of Common Prayer* and *The Book of Alternative Services* are the only two rites permitted in the Cathedral and the Diocese.

12. The Wedding (Unity) Candle, the Sand ceremony, the Maize ceremony, and other such ceremonies not included in the identified liturgies, are not used at the Cathedral.

14. Children are welcome to take part in the Wedding Ceremony, however, please be aware that younger children (especially those younger than seven years of age) may have trouble remaining quiet throughout the whole ceremony. Please take this into consideration when choosing children to act as Flower Girls or Ring Bearers.

15. Regulations concerning the use of photography are set out below. Please make your official photographer and/or video camera operator aware of these regulations.

[a] Photographs may be taken when the wedding party is entering and leaving the Cathedral, and when the Marriage Register is being signed. Photographs may be taken by your official photographer only, without flash, during the time the actual service is in progress.

[b] While official photography is permitted, there will be no posing for photographs during the service, or stopping the service to allow for pictures. The exception will be the signing of the register, during which we may pause for pictures.

[c] The photographer is expected to remain professional, quiet, and unobtrusive, during the service (an over-active photographer can take away from the experience for the couple and for the congregation).

[d] It is also acceptable, at the couple's discretion, to provide further restrictions on your photographer. For example: if you do not want photographs taken during the service, then simply instruct your photographer of your wishes.

[e] There will be no access for the photographer inside the Sanctuary rail.

[f] A video may be taken, but only from a fixed position as directed. The camera may not be moved during the ceremony. Additional lighting is not permitted.

16. Normally, the Great West Doors of the Cathedral will be opened for the departure. However, when there is rain it may be better to leave from the side porch.

17. A receiving line is permitted on the west steps or, if the weather is inclement, at the back of the Cathedral, only if no other wedding or other service is scheduled within an hour after the end of your wedding. It is expected such a receiving line will have ended at least half an hour before any such following service is scheduled to begin, to allow for the comfort of those attending it.

18. Under no conditions is confetti, rice, etc., to be used in the Cathedral or on the Cathedral grounds.

19. Decorations cannot be affixed by tacks, tape or any material that will mar the church property.

20. Couples are expected to be on time for their wedding ceremony. If you are unacceptably late, the ceremony may be postponed until an acceptable time. For example, if there is another wedding following, your wedding may be postponed, to allow that wedding to occur at the scheduled time. **Please do not be late.**

21. In all questions of interpretations of these regulations, the decision of the Rector shall be final.