



ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

DIOCESE OF NORTH QUEENSLAND

St James' Cathedral, Townsville

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GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING WEDDINGS

FORMS REQUIRED

Legal Forms

Notice of Intended Marriage.

Although the date and time of the marriage may be fixed well before, the official application cannot be accepted earlier than eighteen months before the wedding (or later than one full month and one day before the wedding). Couples will be responsible for contacting the priest say two to four months before the wedding date to arrange a convenient time when the official application can be completed. N.B. The marriage cannot take place unless this form is completed within the time stipulated by the Commonwealth Government.

Birth Certificate

A Birth Certificate for each party must be produced some time before the wedding. The most convenient time is at one of the meetings with the priest. In cases where only an 'extract copy' is produced, parties should make certain that they know the full names of both parents (including correct spelling), and also the mother's maiden name and their places of birth. Under certain circumstances, other documents may be permitted to be used.

Photographic Identification

As well as a birth certificate, a current photo ID (drivers licence or passport) needs to be sighted.

Consent Forms

Persons under the legal marriageable age (eighteen years) must obtain the written consent from the Courts. This is the responsibility of the couple.

Church Forms

Re-marriage after a divorce

The church permits the re-marriage of divorced people only after the Bishop has given written permission. If either or both of you are divorced, you will need to complete these forms with the priest, as well as provide copies of the relevant legal documentation

Weddings outside a church

It is usual for Anglican weddings to occur in a church or cathedral. Under some circumstances, application may be made to the Bishop for permission to celebrate your wedding in a garden or other place. This can only occur after the Bishop gives written permission.

OTHER CHURCH MATTERS

Music

If you wish to have the organ played at your wedding, it is possible for the cathedral organist to provide the music. You would need to meet with the organist to see what music is possible.

Many couples these days prefer not to use the organist, and have recorded music of significant songs, to enter and leave the church, and to be played while the documents are being signed. Please speak with the Priest about these choices as the music needs to be appropriate to a wedding taking place in a church, and also may have copyright implications

Ushers

It is necessary for you to arrange for suitable people to be Ushers at your wedding, and hand out the service books as well as directing wedding guests to their appropriate seats.

Seat Decorations

These are provided by the church. They are plain white tulle and satin bows. They will be attached to the ends of the pews prior to the wedding. You can, of course, arrange your own decorations, though these would need to be removed at the conclusion of the service.

Photographs

Flash photography is not permitted during the service but may be taken while the registers are being signed and at other such times as may be indicated by the priest. **Videos** are allowed under certain conditions and only after discussion with the priest, as these have copyright implications.

Confetti

We request that confetti is not used at all in the church or in the church porch and ask that you pass this request on to your guests. As a suggestion, it is a good idea not to use confetti at all, as the dye in the coloured paper often runs and spoils the bride's and bridesmaids' gowns as well as the men's suits.

Flowers

Generally, the regular Cathedral flowers at the end of the nave are in place. Again, of course, arrange a florist of your choice, though these would need to be removed at the conclusion of the service.

Bells

The Cathedral bells can be rung at the conclusion of your service if you wish.

GENERAL MATTERS

Rings

Either one or two rings are acceptable and should be in the care of the bestman. They can be left at the Church following the rehearsal if preferred.

Witnesses

There must be two people available (of at least 18 years of age) to sign the marriage papers as having witnessed the ceremony. It is customary for the bestman and the bridesmaid to do this if they are eligible, though this is not essential.

Flower Girls and Page Boys

If you are considering having flower girls and/or page boys, careful consideration should be given to their age and you should discuss this with your priest.

Time

The complete wedding service takes approximately 30 minutes. The bride should make every effort to be on time and, unless otherwise arranged, the bridegroom and his attendants should be at the church at least fifteen minutes before the scheduled time for the service.

Relationship Workshop

To help you prepare for your wedding and your life as a married couple, we strongly suggest that you seek out a marriage relationship counsellor to help you prepare for your wedding.

Costs

The current cost is \$1200.00 (including GST). This is an overall charge which includes everything involved with the wedding at the Cathedral. This is the **Church Fee** (and is GST exempt) and there is no other fee payable. This does not include any extra decorations or flowers you might like to arrange yourself.

This fee is paid by bank transfer to the Cathedral account, and payment should be completed prior to the wedding day. In exceptional circumstances, this fee can be discussed.

Rehearsal

A rehearsal for your wedding needs to be arranged. At this rehearsal, the statutory declarations need to be signed. This is a government requirement and needs to be completed before the wedding can take place.

FINALLY

Because by law the priest is only permitted to use a service authorised by the Anglican Church of Australia, much of the service has to follow the service printed in our Prayer Book. It is not possible, for instance, for a couple to write their own vows. However, there are some other things that can be added to the service: the lighting of family and marriage candles and the presentation of flowers to the mothers of the bride and groom are such instances.

If you have any requests for particular additions to the service, please let the priest know as soon as possible, so these can be discussed and, if appropriate to a "Anglican Church" wedding, included in your ceremony.