

Wedding Guide



OKOLONA
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Introduction

We appreciate your interest in being married at Okolona Christian Church. This handbook is designed to walk you through the process of determining if this will be where you celebrate that special day.

Since God created and ordained marriage, it only reaches its ultimate potential when founded on Him. Our goal is that each wedding we participate in, results in a life-long union through Jesus Christ. Each couple married here needs to be willing to commit to Christ in both their lives and marriage. In pursuit of that goal we also ask each couple to commit to some practical preparation as well. You must decide if these requirements are consistent with your desires for your marriage.

No matter what type of wedding you are planning, large or small, simple or elegant, the main purpose is the uniting of two lives into one through the exchanging of vows. Since the vows are made before God, they deserve the dignity of a worship service. Therefore a second purpose of this handbook is to assist you in planning a wedding that is pleasing to both you and the Lord.

Please read this booklet carefully and then fill out the application at the back of the book. Our general coordinator will phone you and process your request.

We wish you wisdom as you pursue God's direction in your plans,

Okolona Christian Church

Suggested Scriptures to Prepare for Marriage

Husband and Wife Relationship:

Genesis 1:26; 2:25
I Corinthians 11:1-12
Ephesians 5:22-33
I Peter 3:1-7
I Corinthians 7:1-9, 17, 27, 28, 39
II Corinthians 6:14-19
Romans 7:1-3
Hebrews 13:4

Divorce – Remarriage:

Matthew 19:1-12
Matthew 5:31, 32
Mark 10:2-12
Luke 16:18
I Corinthians 7:10-17, 27, 28, 39
Romans 7:1-3

The Process of Scheduling a Wedding at OCC

1. A couple obtains a wedding guide from the church office or website and carefully reads it.
2. The application in the wedding guide is fully completed and mailed to the general coordinator.
3. The general wedding coordinator phones the bride and interviews her. Approval from the general coordinator must be given to proceed to the next step.
4. The couple arranges a personal interview with performing OCC minister.
5. It is not until after this interview that final approval is given to schedule the wedding, please do not make dependant plans until after this approval.
6. The wedding is officially booked on OCC calendar.

Requirements of Wedding Couple

1. Both bride and groom must be immersed believers, desiring to build a Christian marriage and submit to the written Word of God.
2. Both bride and groom must regularly attend worship services at Okolona Christian Church.
3. Both bride and groom must attend all scheduled pre-marital counseling sessions.

Policies of Wedding Ceremonies

1. If either party has been divorced, the couple will be asked to consider all scriptures as listed and applicable to divorce and remarriage. The respective party will be asked the reason for the divorce, and the elders place responsibility on their shoulders for the truthfulness of their answer. If they claim their previous mate was sexually unfaithful to them, the minister may perform the ceremony. If the divorce occurred for any other reason, the elders have required OCC ministers not to perform the ceremony in order to preserve the unity of the church body.
 - No remarriages after divorce will be performed until at least eighteen months have passed from the time the divorce is finalized.
 - Private counseling is required for all remarriages after divorce.
2. In case of premarital pregnancy, the marriage may or may not be performed depending on the maturity of the persons involved and other considerations. The final decision to perform the ceremony will be determined by the minister asked to perform the ceremony. The minister may seek the advice of the elders.
3. No minister of the Okolona Christian Church staff will marry a couple if another minister of the church has refused to perform the ceremony.
4. Because God has ordained the marital relationship as being between one (1) man and one (1) woman, a marriage between persons of the same sex is contrary to the religious beliefs and faith of Okolona Christian Church, as based in Scripture (1 Cor.6:9). According to our beliefs, "sex" is an individual's biological sex, determined at the time of birth by the individual's anatomy, physiology and chromosomes. Therefore, no minister of the Okolona Christian Church staff will marry a same sex couple, and Okolona Christian Church shall not provide services, accommodations, advantages, facilities, goods, or privileges related to the solemnization of a marriage between persons of the same sex, the celebration of such a marriage, or the promotion of such a marriage.

5. Because a Christian wedding celebrates a commitment to Christ, this commitment should be reflected in the preparation period for the wedding. Couples living together outside of marriage will be required to separate before the wedding will be approved. The preparation period from the point of separation until the wedding will be a minimum of two months and will be maintained the entire time from the approval of the wedding until the wedding day. Any question regarding this requirement can be answered in the interview with the minister.
6. We do not marry couples if either person is under the influence of alcohol or drugs (other than those prescribed by a doctor) before or during the rehearsal and/or wedding. NOTE: Any member of the wedding party who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs will not be permitted to participate in the wedding. There is to be no dancing or alcoholic beverages on the church property.
7. A minister of Okolona Christian Church must be involved in the wedding ceremony. Use of an additional guest minister is permitted upon approval of the performing OCC minister.
8. Acknowledging that extenuating circumstances may exist, the couple may arrange to meet with a panel of the elders to discuss their situation.

General Guidelines and Helpful Information

1. Careful choice of music is encouraged in the planning of the ceremony. Please remember that your wedding is a religious ceremony. **Music selections and CD's are to be provided to sound technician 2 weeks before the rehearsal.**
2. Only OCC sound technicians may be used for wedding ceremonies.
3. Any vocalists and instrumentalists are the responsibility of the wedding party.

4. Please make sure that all participants of the wedding are present at the rehearsal and on time. The smooth flow of the wedding ceremony is often determined on the effectiveness of the rehearsal. Bring your marriage license to the rehearsal.
5. Dressing rooms are available on the church premises for the wedding party to dress on campus. OCC accepts no responsibility for lost valuables.
6. A professional photographer is strongly urged for the wedding ceremony. Any special instructions to the photographer may come from the performing minister.
7. Please treat the church property with proper respect.
 - You are requested to use only the area of the campus you have reserved.
 - The wedding party is held responsible for any property damage.
 - No birdseed or rice may be used on the church property.
 - No pets or animals are to be used in the wedding ceremony, nor are they allowed in the building unless assist animals.
 - Property belonging to the wedding party should be removed at the conclusion of the ceremony.
 - No smoking or alcohol in any of the buildings.
8. The following items are available for use: One kneeling bench, two flower containers, and a guest register stand.
9. The latest start time for a Saturday ceremony is 5:00 p.m. Rehearsals taking place on a Thursday evening must conclude by 7:00 p.m. Certain dates may not be available due to other weddings or church programming.
10. A standard stage arrangement is used in the Large Auditorium, which utilizes a 10 ft. black curtain to mask out stage equipment, and gives you access to the front portion of the stage. (The Wedding Coordinator can provide a picture or diagram showing the stage layout in the Large Auditorium.) Clearing the stage in front of the curtain is included in the fee structure. However, all

Wedding Fees

1. Basic Fee

Main Auditorium (1400 capacity)

Member Fee: \$650

Non-Member Fee: \$950

This fee includes... Auditorium/ Lobby, 2 dressing rooms, Minister, Coordinator, Counseling, Sound Tech, Custodial, and Stage tear-down, rehearsal.

- ## 2. Optional Fees:
- Additional services are available for an additional fee, such as, Video Tech (required when showing a video as part of the ceremony, we do not do video recordings), Light Tech (required if lighting changes are desired), extended rehearsal (a one hour rehearsal of wedding party is included in the fees above, but when multiple vocalist or instrumentalists require additional practice time there is an additional fee) Information regarding these fees can be discussed with the coordinator.

*The wedding couple is responsible for the decorating of any rooms used. Please do not use nails, screws, wires, or tape on the furnishings. All decorations should be removed immediately following the wedding activities. The rooms are to be straightened and put back into the layout in which they were found.

- ## 3. All fees should be paid in full, four weeks prior to the wedding date.
- Please make checks payable to Okolona Christian Church and personally give to the performing minister or mail to Elaine Duncan c/o Okolona Christian Church, 10801 Faithful Way, Louisville, KY 40229.

SOME OFFICES WHICH ISSUE MARRIAGE LICENSES

LOCATION	HOURS
Central Branch 7505 Outer Loop Louisville, KY 40218	Monday 8:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Tuesday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Dixie Branch K-Mart Plaza 4919-F Dixie Highway Louisville, KY 40216	Monday and Tuesday 8:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Wednesday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Downtown Branch 527 West Jefferson Street Louisville, KY 40202	Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
East Government Center 200 Juneau Drive Louisville, KY 40243	Monday 8:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Tuesday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Jeffersontown Branch 10420 Watterson Trail Louisville, KY 40299	Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



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