

Wedding Policy

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PLAQUEMINE
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INTRODUCTION

It should be noted from the beginning that marriage is to be taken seriously. The reason for this is because God takes the covenant of marriage seriously. Marriage is not only about having someone to be with, argue with, love, have children with, sleep with, and to gratify our desire with, its central purpose is to bring glory to God. All the rest, good and bad, is the by product of God's gracious gift of marriage.

The seriousness of this commitment to marry and stay married will be emphasized throughout the required counseling sessions and in the ceremony itself. It is not our desire to be flippant. Marriage is holy and sacred, and it should be thus treated. It is the sincere desire of everyone at First Baptist of Plaquemine that your wedding be a meaningful event. Your minister will do everything in his power to see to it that each detail of your wedding and future life together is considered to ensure that your union will be as wonderful and joy-filled as is possible.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COUPLE

Before a marriage ceremony will be held at First Baptist of Plaquemine, the couple interested in having the wedding here will face a few requirements. Most of these are spiritual in nature, and they are not negotiable.

1. An appointment needs to be made with the minister conducting the ceremony. This can be done by contacting the Church Office or by contacting the minister.
2. The couple will be required to attend three (3) counseling sessions. These counseling sessions must be at least one week apart, and they must be completed at least two (2) weeks before the wedding. (This means that the earliest a wedding can take place is five (5) weeks from the date of the first counseling session.)
3. Both the bride and the groom must attend all of these sessions.
4. After the first meeting, the minister, at his own discretion, will determine whether or not he will perform the marriage service. He will determine this based upon these factors:
 - 1) The spiritual condition and background of the couple will be taken into consideration. This is of paramount importance. What you believe and why you believe it will affect every decision that you make. Further, the Bible teaches that a Christian *sins* if he or she marries an unbeliever. Reference (2 Corinthians 6:14-

18; Nehemiah 13:23-27; Ezra chapter 9; Deuteronomy 7:1-6). A marriage that begins divided on the issue of faith cannot fulfill the very purpose of marriage itself. That is, marriage is to bring glory to God.

- 2) The couple's reasoning for getting married will be taken into consideration.
- 3) If there is a divorce in the background of either candidate, the minister will examine the cause for the break-up and determine whether or not he can, in good conscience before God, continue with ceremony. Jesus himself warns that "whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery" (Matthew 19:9).
- 4) If the couple is currently living together, they will be required to separate until the marriage.
- 5) If the couple is not a member of this Church, or if they are not an active member of any like-minded Church, and they have no interest in pursuing an active Church membership, then the request will be denied by the minister.
- 6) The minister reserves the right to refuse to perform the ceremony at any time he feels that he cannot, in good conscience, continue.
- 7) If the couple desires for a minister not on the staff of First Baptist Church Plaquemine to perform the wedding, then the pastor of First Baptist Church of Plaquemine must first make contact with the conducting minister in order to approve the service.
- 8) If the minister agrees to perform the service, then a date may be set for the service and the Church and/or fellowship hall reserved. Weddings may not be scheduled on Sundays or Wednesdays, or on any holiday or holiday weekend.

The church staff will assist the couple in scheduling three pre-marital sessions with the performing minister.

Session One: _____ **Session Two:** _____ **Session Three:** _____

Bride Elect: _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Other Phone _____

Groom Elect: _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Other Phone _____

GENERAL FACILITY POLICIES

WEDDING COORDINATOR:

All wedding require a wedding coordinator to avoid chaos. A Wedding Coordinator will be appointed to you. The Wedding Coordinator is there to ensure serenity, keep idiotic groomsmen in line, and give order and structure to the service. She will also be a magnificent help in guiding you through the facilities, helping you arrange things, making certain that you do not forget things (rings, marriage license, etc).

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REHEARSAL:

A rehearsal is and may be scheduled for the night before or two nights prior to the wedding. **The Wedding Coordinator along with the minister will direct the rehearsal.** While the minister is experienced in constructing an attractive staging of the ceremony, the wishes of the bride and groom-elect are the minister's main concern. In addition, the marriage license may be provided to the minister on or before the night of the rehearsal.

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BUILDING USE:

Do not leave valuables unattended. First Baptist Church is not responsible for pilfered purses, wallets, stolen shoes, jewelry, or anything else that is left unsecured.

Do not rearrange church furniture without permission. Speak to the Wedding Coordinator if such a need arises.

Nursery and Children's Areas will not be available for use unless staffed by paid Church personnel. Contact the Church office concerning the availability and cost for nursery/children's workers.

It is the church's expectation that the removal from the building of all personal belongings, decorations, flowers, candles, etc... will be the responsibility of a person or persons designated or approved by the bride and that all personal belongings will be removed from the building in a timely manner immediately following the departure of the bridal party from the church.

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FOOD, DRINK, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO:

Absolutely no alcoholic beverages are to be consumed on the premises at any time. This includes outside parking lots. No food or beverage is allowed in the sanctuary at any time, including the rehearsal. **Smoking is absolutely unacceptable inside the facilities.** The bridal party may have food and non-alcoholic drinks inside their designated dressing areas before the wedding ceremony. Respectful use of the facilities and disposal of trash is a must.

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MUSIC:

The church organ and piano may be used during the wedding service at no extra charge. We **do not** provide the organist or pianist, but may have available names.

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PHOTOGRAPHY:

While photographs of the wedding and wedding party are important to the bridal couple and their families, the solemnity of the ceremony should not be marred by indiscriminate picture taking. It is the responsibility of the bridal couple to communicate these guidelines to their guests and the photographer. **Flash pictures are not to be made by anyone during the ceremony but may be taken before or after the ceremony.** Noise should be kept to an absolute minimum in making time exposures, in changing film and film packs, and in excessive moving, etc... Most photographers plan to make pictures both before and after the wedding ceremony, so bridal party arrival at the church should be **at least** one hour prior to the time of the wedding. Video taping of the wedding service may be done from the side aisle or back only. No photographers or camera operator will be permitted in the front of the sanctuary where the wedding is to take place. The bridal party may assemble in the sanctuary after the ceremony and pose for any parts of the ceremony. The photographer and any guests may take flash pictures at that time.

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FLOWERS:

As soon as a florist has been selected, notify the church office so that an understanding may be reached regarding the time to open the building, as well as a discussion of the policies on decorating. If no florist is involved, then those responsible for flowers and decorations should notify the church office for the same reason. The florist must contact Wedding Coordinator to set up decorations and etc.

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DECORATIONS:

All decorations, flowers, plants, etc. will be removed from the church building immediately following its use. **No tacks, nails, tape, or other material that will deface church property shall be used.** Flowers, candles, cords, etc... must have bases or stands to support them.

Decorations such as streamers shall not be attached to walls, pews, chancel rails, or ceilings in a manner that will leave permanent marks.

At the Reception – Please don't use rice to throw when the Bride and Groom are leaving.

Birdseed or some other bird-friendly product is recommended because of the ease of cleaning and it doesn't kill the birds. Also, don't throw any rice, birdseed, or peanuts, or whatever in any of the buildings.

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WEDDING FEES:

	<u>Member*</u>		<u>Non-Member</u>	
Sanctuary		Free	Sanctuary	\$200
Fellowship Hall		\$125	Fellowship Hall	\$200
			Sanctuary and Hall	\$400

For both members and non-members using the sanctuary there will be an additional \$75 fee for the sound technician and a \$125 fee for the wedding coordinator.

*An active member is one who is currently on the church roster, contributes financially and attends services regularly.

The above fee does not include the love offering for the minister performing the ceremony.

We recommend that you give a love offering straight to the minister of \$100. The minister will spend at least 10 to 15 hours in total time preparing for your wedding. This is not for profit but just a small gift to say thank you for the time he has spent with you making your wedding day special.

A refundable **deposit of \$100** is required to reserve the date. This deposit should be written as a separate check and will be returned as long as all no damages are found and all of the rules in the wedding policy are met as well as the building and use rules are followed and met.

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Information form for Weddings at FBC Plaquemine

MINISTER: _____

RECEPTION LOCATION: _____

WEDDING DATE: _____ TIME: _____

(The latest that a wedding with a reception here at the church may be scheduled on Saturday is 5:00pm. Weddings may only be scheduled up to 6:00pm.)

REHEARSAL DATE: _____ TIME: _____

Total Number in Wedding Party (Including Bride and Groom) _____

Number of Attendants: Bride _____ Groom _____

Approximate Guest List _____ Children in Wedding Party _____

The information below may be filled in later as your wedding gets closer. If you do not know this information yet just leave this part blank.

Florist _____ Phone _____

Photographer _____ Phone _____

Accompanist _____ Phone _____

Your Sound Technician _____ Phone _____

Your Wedding Coordinator _____ Phone _____

I have read the document **Wedding Policies and Procedures for Weddings at First Baptist Church Plaquemine** and will abide by the guidelines given therein.

Bride-Elect's Signature: _____ **Date** _____ **Phone** _____

Groom's Signature: _____ **Date** _____ **Phone** _____

_____ I will allow the wedding to take place at First Baptist Church Plaquemine.

_____ I will not allow the wedding to take place at First Baptist Church Plaquemine.

Signature of Pastor of First Baptist Church Plaquemine