

Off-Campus Ceremony Guidelines



Congratulations! A wedding is a momentous and sacred occasion during which a man and a woman come together before God and take vows that will unite them in life. We are honored to partner with you for this special event.

What to Expect for an Off-Campus Wedding

- A member of The Ark Church pastoral staff will officiate your wedding ceremony at your chosen venue. Some couples also request the pastor play a role in other segments (i.e. blessing the meal). If an additional role is desired, please discuss this in your meeting to verify availability.
- A meeting will be scheduled with you, your fiancé, and the officiating pastor to discuss your expectations and create a unique and meaningful ceremony. They can help you decide whether to include family traditions, readings, the type of vows, and more.
- **Officiant Fees:**
 - **Ceremony:** \$300
 - **Rehearsal:** \$100 *Optional - only if the officiating pastor's attendance is desired
 - Travel exceeds 40 miles: \$100+ based on the distance
 - Additional fees will occur if an overnight stay is required
- Applicable fees will be collected in person by the officiating pastor or their administrative assistant, by appointment, at least two weeks before your wedding date.
- All elements of your wedding booking, ceremony, and reception will be the responsibility of the bride and groom.

Marriage License

- The bride and groom must purchase a marriage license to have a legally valid wedding in the State of Texas.
 - For more information on applying for a marriage license, visit www.mctx.org or call the Montgomery County Clerk's office.
 - A Texas marriage license must be obtained at least 72 hours prior to the wedding ceremony and is only valid for 90 days.
 - You can receive a certificate for \$60 off the cost of your marriage license when you complete our premarital class.
 - You are responsible for providing your original marriage license to the officiating pastor or their administrative staff at least two weeks prior to your wedding date.
 - The ceremony will not be performed without a valid marriage license.
 - The Ark Church will submit your completed marriage license to the courthouse for filing after the ceremony.

Marriage Support

- The Ark Church offers a premarital class that teaches helpful skills for a new marriage, including communication, problem-solving, conflict management, and more.
- After completing the premarital class, you will receive a certificate for \$60 off the cost of your marriage license.
- The Ark offers various groups and marriage mentoring throughout the year to help strengthen and support your marriage. Please visit www.thearkchurch.com for details.

Your Next Steps

- Submit your request for consideration by completing an application at www.thearkchurch.com/weddings