

Marriage

Origin: General Synod Canon and Bishop's Policy

Blessing of a Civil Marriage

The General Synod Marriage Canon (Canon XXI available at the Anglican Church of Canada website www.anglican.ca) and diocesan policies in regard to marriage apply to the Blessing of Civil Marriages as well as to marriages performed by Anglican clergy in this diocese. This includes an application to the Marriage Commission in the case of divorced persons.

Marriage

Origin: Diocesan Synod Policy

Date: May 2005

Place of Marriage

1. The normal place of marriage in the Anglican Church shall be an Anglican Church or chapel.
 2. All Anglican weddings in the Diocese of Algoma shall be under the supervision of a licensed Algoma incumbent.
 3. Under the general approval of the Bishop, incumbents may authorize a wedding ceremony in a place other than a church or chapel, where one or both of the parties are regularly part of an Anglican worshipping community, and in a setting where the sacred and public nature of Christian marriage will be upheld.
 4. Where there is not a pre-existing, Anglican pastoral link with one of the parties, special permission for a ceremony outside of a church or chapel may be obtained from the Bishop, if in the opinion of the Bishop:
 - a) there is not a church or chapel within the proximity of the community where the marriage is to take place
 - b) the church or the chapel is inadequate in size
 - c) the church or chapel is inaccessible for intended service participants
 - d) there are reasons re the health of the couple or their immediate family
 5. Where a marriage ceremony is held outside of a church or chapel, Matrimonial Commission procedures, liturgical requirements, and the directions of the Bishop are fully applicable.
 6. The marriage should be registered in the parish marriage register of the incumbent under whose supervision the marriage was solemnized.
 7. When an incumbent plans the place of marriage in what would generally be considered the "bounds" of another Algoma incumbent, s/he shall obtain the consent of the other incumbent beforehand. See also General Synod Canon on Marriage, Canon XXI, and Regulation 11 (c) *The officiating minister must have obtained the consent of the incumbent of the parish in which the marriage is to be solemnized if the officiating minister is not licensed to that parish.*
 8. Algoma Clergy wishing to conduct weddings in other dioceses shall do so under the authority of a duly licensed Incumbent of that Diocese who will obtain permission from the Bishop of that Diocese.
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Marriage for Un-baptized Persons

Origin: Bishop's Policy, November 2006

One Party Un-baptized

Where one party to a marriage is un-baptized, the rubrics require reference to the Bishop. There is a general permission from the Bishop of Algoma for permission to conduct such services without further reference to the Bishop so long as the officiant has had a pastoral conversation with the un-baptized person about the value and importance of baptism. In such cases baptism should never be a requirement preceding marriage.

Where Both Parties are Un-baptized

The rubrics presume that the sacrament of Christian marriage would be provided to baptized persons. Where people are seeking Christian marriage, one or both parties should be encouraged to be baptized prior to the wedding. If an Incumbent wishes to conduct a wedding service between two people who are un-baptized, a written request should be given to the Bishop well before a wedding service is planned, giving the pastoral rationale.