



## **Marriage outside of the Church**

The guidelines for all weddings performed by Anglican clergy are noted in Canon XXI of the Anglican Church of Canada, and should be referred to for conformity in every instance. Additionally;

1. The officiant needs to seek the support of the bishop before proceeding with any preparations for a wedding outside the church proper.  
The request to the bishop can come in an email or letter format. The information should include
  - (a) Name of the couple
  - (b) Reason for the location of the wedding
  - (c) Does the officiant see it as a right and faithful thing to do
  - (d) If not in officiant's parish area, support of the rector for the area
2. The couple should be encouraged that the wedding take place inside their local church building, or that the building be reserved for use that day in case of inclement weather.
3. The service shall be strictly according to one of the two authorized Anglican books for liturgy in Canada - either The Book of Common Prayer, or The Book of Alternative services.
4. The clergy shall vest just as they would in the church building - either cassock/surplice/stole or alb/stole. Depending on local customs, and if the eucharist is to be celebrated, a cope or chasuble may also be appropriate.
5. The reception must not be in progress during the celebration of the wedding - the bar must be closed.
6. Depending on the location, the local environment should be kept quiet. The couple should be encouraged to ask neighbours that lawn-mowing, field work, wood-cutting, and the like be suspended for the duration of the service.
7. That this is an Anglican Christian celebration, and being celebrated just as if in a church building, should be made clear to all those gathered.
8. The marriage shall be registered in the local parish register.
9. When a priest plans the place of marriage in what would generally be considered the "bounds" of another parish, the priest must consult with that parish's incumbent.
10. Any variations from these guidelines must be discussed with the bishop.