

## WEDDING GUIDELINES

Whereas there is no uniformity in the way weddings are conducted  
And whereas there is need to have guidelines to regulate weddings, the following are recommended as guidelines.

### 1) PROCEDURES

1. The couple desiring to get married will reveal their intentions to the church at least a minimum of three months before the wedding day
2. The wedding committee shall not exert pressure or increase on expenses beyond the couple's capability.
3. Where possible, bride wealth must be settled before the wedding

### 2) ELIGIBILITY

1. A man marrying a non-member and vice versa shall not qualify for a church wedding
2. Divorced individuals will need clearance by the church
3. The couple that is known to have sexual intercourse while preparing for the wedding shall not qualify to have a church wedding

### 3) PARTICIPANTS

All the participants of the wedding shall be as far as possible members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Relatives of the marrying couple who are not members of the church shall adhere to the Bible Principles in dress and decorum.

### 4) MUSIC

1. Rocky music and Gospel Rhumba shall **not** be allowed
2. The music, speeches and entertainment shall be of Christian tenor in conformity with Bible Principles.

### 5) RECEPTION

- 📖 The spirit of worship should be maintained
- 📖 The practice of opening the floor should not be permitted.
- 📖 Dancing seductive and wild partying should be discouraged.

### 6) MISCELLANEOUS

1. Every couple to be counseled to have the wedding within their means
2. Encourage services without reception for couples without enough funds.

1. Should secure letters of communication from the church to allow him to conduct the wedding
2. Make a profile for the couple
  - Full names
  - Age
  - Condition (single, widow, divorced)
  - Profession
  - Residence
  - Tribe (To ascertain culture practices)
  - Date of wedding
  - Place of church service
  - Baptism Date (To know how long they have been members)
  - Where church membership is held
  - Academic qualifications (To know the language to use)
  - Ask if they have had an HIV/AIDS test and encourage them to go for VCT
  - Ascertain payment of Bridal wealth
  - Previous serious illness
3. To include the following topics during counseling:
  - Foundation of marriage
  - Finances
  - How to handle relatives, dependants, in-laws
  - Appreciating male-female differences
  - Sexuality and family planning
  - Childlessness
  - Communication
  - Conflict management in the family
4. Where the officiating Minister comes from outside the country, the local Field/Conference shall be informed as a matter of courtesy
5. The Officiating Minister should acquaint the aspiring couple with all these guidelines on the first day they come to request him for his services. This should be done in the presence of Church leadership and all those concerned so that there will be no misunderstandings later.
6. The marrying couple shall agree to abide by the guidelines, should the couple feel uncomfortable with these guidelines then they should seek to marry under the state law
7. And that every officiating minister adhere to denominational guidelines as outlined in the Minister's Handbook (Manual)

Deviation from these guidelines will attract displeasure from the church which shall act as deemed necessary.