

Express 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 Express Ceremony

- Basic ceremony, officiated by a member of The Ark Church pastoral staff
 - This ceremony is simple, similar to going to a courthouse
 - **Included:** vow and ring exchanges, a short message, prayer, and presentation of the newlywed couple
 - **Not included:** processions, unity ceremonies, or other unique elements
 - **Max of 30 minutes**, including photography
 - Please keep in mind that if the ceremony start time is delayed, it may result in a change of officiating pastor and/or the need to reschedule
 - **Available Monday-Thursday, between 10:00am and 4:30pm**
 - Held in the Prayer Room (upon availability)
 - Maximum guests: 20
 - No decorations, audio/visual, music, or other setup
- Bride and Groom should **arrive ready to begin**; no changing facilities are available
- **Fee: No cost**

Please note that any reception or additional gathering will need to be held at another location.

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.
 - Receive a certificate for \$60 off the cost of your marriage license when you complete our premarital class (more details below).
- You are responsible for providing your original marriage license to the officiating pastor or their administrative staff at the ceremony.
 - 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