

West Point Protestant Wedding: Guest Minister Policy

It is highly encouraged that the couple find a chaplain or civilian clergy to officiate their wedding. Having a West Point chaplain officiate your wedding is possible, but takes a great deal of coordination due to the mission of the West Point chaplains. Upon request, the Garrison Chaplain's office can provide a list of available chaplains from West Point with their denominational requirements for weddings at (845) 938-2003.

If you would like to request a West Point Chaplain, please fill out the form on page three of the: West Point Protestant Wedding Request and email it to the Garrison Chaplain's office. There is an "Email this form" button at the bottom of the document to make this process easier.

Visiting clergy will be sponsored by an assigned chaplain from the Garrison Chaplain's Office, which may or may not be the same denomination of the wedding party. The Garrison Chaplain's Office grants permission to guest ministers with the understanding that the wedding couple and the guest minister abide by the policies published in the Wedding Guide for Services Conducted in The Cadet Chapel and Old Cadet Chapel. Additionally, couples and ministers must also adhere to the following guidelines:

No Weddings involving a guest minister can be scheduled after 2:00 p.m.

Couples getting married and guest ministers officiating at the Cadet or the Old Cadet Chapel must fill out and sign the Agreement to Guest Minister Policy for West Point Protestant Weddings. This document must be returned to the Garrison Chaplain's Office no later than 60 days prior to the rehearsal. Upon receipt, the Garrison Chaplain's Office will appoint a sponsor to the wedding and notify the party via e-mail.

Guest ministers must certify in writing that they have conducted premarital counseling with the couple. Since the service is being held in a military Chapel, installation policy requires pre-marital counseling of all couples being married at West Point. The counseling should be completed at least one month prior to the wedding. If not local to the area, couples may make arrangements for pre-marital counseling with a chaplain or clergy from another post or community. Couples must provide a letter from their counselor to the Garrison Chaplain's office certifying that the required counseling has been completed 30 days prior to your wedding date. There is no special required program.

The sponsoring West Point Chaplain will direct all wedding rehearsals. Guest ministers will attend the wedding rehearsals and may participate as necessary. Wedding rehearsals are normally scheduled between 5 and 7 p.m. the evening prior to the service and may not be changed without approval of the Garrison Chaplain's Office.

Weddings will start on time. The Cadet Chapel and Old Cadet Chapels are public buildings and very popular sites to visit for tourists and guests of the Academy. Since we "fence" the chapels from local tour groups during services and ceremonies, there is only one hour allocated for weddings at the Cadet Chapel or Old Cadet Chapel. If no wedding is scheduled to follow, the wedding party and guests must clear the Chapel no later than one hour after the scheduled start time of their wedding. If another wedding is scheduled to follow, the wedding party and guests must clear the Chapel no later than 20 minutes before the hour to allow the next wedding to seat guests before the hour.

West Point Protestant Wedding: Guest Minister Policy

Agreement to Guest Minister Policy for West Point Protestant Weddings.

I have read and understand the Wedding Guide for Services Conducted in The Cadet Chapel and Old Cadet Chapel and agree to abide by its guidelines and the attached Cadet Chapel Guest Minister Policy.

(Date, time & location of wedding)

(Groom or Bride Signature and Date)

(Groom or Bride Printed Name)

(Guest Minister Signature and Date)

(Guest Minister Printed Name)

(Name and Address of Congregation)

(City, State, Zip)

(Phone Number)

Requests for guest ministers to officiate weddings at the Cadet Chapel will not be approved until the Garrison's Chaplain Office receives this signed statement.

Send the completed and signed form to the Garrison Chaplains Office at:

Maria.Trevizo-Ramirez@usma.edu

Or by U.S. Postal Service to: Garrison Chaplains Office, 692 Biddle Loop, West Point, NY 10996