



1701 E. First Street #502
Gulf Shores, Alabama 36542
(251) 223-4105

info@sandcastlebeachweddings.com

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Below are the most common questions we receive. If you don't see your question below, please contact us at info@sandcastleweddings.com. Happy planning!

I have decided to have a "Sandcastle Beach Wedding." What now?

**Call or e-mail for date and time availability.*

March through November are our busiest months, although we do offer our services year round. Keep in mind that Friday & Saturday sunset ceremonies are the first to be booked. We will provide you the sunset time for your date upon your inquiry. If you choose a Friday or Saturday sunset - we suggest putting a deposit down as soon as possible in order to hold your date. Bookings will not be made any further than one year in advance. Once you've decided the time and date, and the availability is confirmed through our office, we require the appropriate deposit/payment for the services requested. There is a downloadable contract available on the home page of this website that can be printed, filled out and mailed with your personal checks or money order. We also accept Visa, Mastercard, Discover, Diners Club and American Express (over the phone only). Once payment is received, you will receive a package from us which includes a letter of confirmation, your contract, our Beach Wedding format and a packet of vows. We encourage you to call or e-mail as often as you'd like with any questions you may have.

Why should we choose your company?

We are a "Beach Wedding Service" not "Wedding Coordinators". We do provide many services and will happily help you find vendors for catering and other services that we do not provide. You will find that we have no hidden fees, everything will be discussed up front and will be written into your contract with no fine print. You may add and subtract items after the initial booking with no penalty as long as you give notice. Please read your contract carefully. We invite you to ask for references from former brides and other businesses. For your protection, all checks/money orders and credit card payments need to be made to Sandcastle Beach Weddings, which is our corporate name.

How do we pick a location?

The location is, of course, your choice. We will be happy to help guide you in the right direction based on your needs and preferences. We go to county/state parks, hotels, condos and beach houses. There will be an additional travel fee for "out of area" weddings. The fee is based upon the services requested. Some of the locations do charge a fee or special use permit. These fees are NOT included in any of the SANDCASTLE BEACH WEDDING Packages. You may have your wedding where you are staying as long as you obtain permission from the hotel/condo. Be sure to ask if there is an additional fee for the use of the beach, park or banquet hall, etc. for the wedding. You will be responsible for any extra fees that may be charged. We will provide as much information as we can to help you make your decision.

Will there be other people on the beach?

Yes. All beaches in Florida and Alabama are public beaches. We cannot rope off any part of the beach. There are obviously certain times of the year and certain areas where you will find the beaches are more crowded than others. However most tourists begin leave the beach around 4:00 pm. A few people will stay and watch from a distance but we have never had any interference with beach goers.



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Who performs the ceremony?

We provide the Officiate with all of our packages. You may provide your own as long as he/she is ordained or a notary for the state where your wedding is located (Florida or Alabama). In that case we will deduct \$150.00 from the package you choose.

**** Only Officiates directly affiliated with Sandcastle Beach Weddings are authorized to perform ceremonies which include the Heart of Sand and the Blessing Stones.*

Can we write our vows?

Yes. We encourage couples to be creative. We also send a packet of different vows/ring vows you may want to choose from once we receive your deposit. When couples write their own vows - we suggest the "Message in the Bottle Vows" - as the vows are usually more personal. You may also choose to have a Friend/Family member read a poem, sing or lead in prayer.

What about photography?

All of our packages include photography. Our photographers are free lance (not professional) that shoot for Sandcastle Beach Weddings only. They are all familiar with our sites and do quality work. Even so, weather conditions may affect the outcome. If you are scheduled for a sunset wedding and arrive more than 15 minutes late - we may not be able to take the number of photos in your package... there will be NO adjustment on costs. If you would like to provide your own photographer/videographer we will deduct our fee from the cost of the package. Fees vary according to package.

How do we obtain a marriage license?

Both of you must apply in person, together at the Clerk of the Court. Both must have a State issued photo ID. Make sure that it is not expired! It is VERY important that you visit our Marriage License page for more complete information on Alabama and Florida state rules of application.

What happens if it rains?

Although we have been extremely blessed with the few hundred weddings in only having to move two due to weather - we do recommend having a backup plan. You may want to consider WEDDING INSURANCE. While it is YOUR responsibility to have a back-up location in case of inclement weather but we will be happy to help you choose.

What happens if we have to postpone?

Any deposits/payments will be applied to your new date.

What happens if we have to cancel?

All deposits are non-refundable. If you paid in full at the time of booking you will be refunded the difference of the appropriate deposit along with any other costs incurred of the amount paid in full.

Do you handle the receptions?

No, we do not - however we are more than happy to refer you to area restaurants, caterers, and other resources.

Please call or e-mail us with any questions you have.

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