

DECREE
OF
CATHOLIC WEDDINGS OUTSIDE AN APPROVED PLACE

Whereas, c. 1115 states: Marriages are to be celebrated in the parish in which either of the contracting parties has a domicile or a quasi-domicile or a month's residence or, if there is a question of *vagi*, in the parish in which they are actually residing. With the permission of the proper Ordinary or the proper parish priest, marriages may be celebrated elsewhere.

Whereas, c. 1118, states:

§1: A marriage between Catholics, or between a catholic party and a baptized non-Catholic, is to be celebrated in the parish church. By permission of the local Ordinary or of the parish priest, it may be celebrated in another church or oratory.

§2: The local Ordinary can allow a marriage to be celebrated in another suitable place.

§3: A marriage between a catholic party and a non-baptized party may be celebrated in a church or in another suitable place.

Whereas, besides the parish church, with permission of the local Ordinary, wedding ceremonies could be held in another church (c. 1214), oratories (c. 1223), and sanctuaries (c. 1230).

Whereas, "suitability" of places is left to the discretion of the local Ordinary to grant or deny authorization for the celebration of marriage outside a sacred place.

Whereas "sacred places" are those which are designated for divine worship or for the burial of the faithful by a dedication or a blessing which the liturgical books prescribe for this purpose (c. 1205).

I hereby declare that within the territory of the Diocese of Las Cruces, it is not allowed to celebrate weddings outside sacred places, such as resorts, hotels, vineyards, orchards, parks, or any other places not considered "sacred."

Given at the Chancery, on June 17, 2013.