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**Bob Sanders**  
Commissioner

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**Vacant**  
Commissioner

## *Weddings in Nags Head*

Thank you for inquiring about weddings on the beach in Nags Head. The Town of Nags Head is proud of its nourished beach and wants to keep it pristine and safe for all to enjoy. Below is information that should be helpful and should answer most if not all of your questions.

All North Carolina beaches are public and open to all. It's my understanding from past weddings the surrounding visitors on the beach are very respectful and courteous for a wedding ceremony in progress on the beach. The Town does not require a permit for a wedding to be held on the beach. However, the following are concerns for the Town if the expected attendance is 50 or more. Please complete the [Wedding Registration Form](#).

The purpose for asking these questions is - the Town's number one concern is public safety. If the expected attendance is high (50 or more) we pass the date, time, location, and etc. on to the Police, Fire, and Ocean Rescue depts. to inform them that an event is scheduled at (address) on (date and time) with (# attending) expected.

*Parking plan* – unless the wedding is being held at an oceanfront hotel, parking for large events is a concern. The cottages in Nags Head are designed to handle parking based on the approved number of bedrooms only. The formula we use to calculate the number of parking spaces needed is one (1) parking space for every three (3) people. Some people arrange for a shuttle service. Temporary parking may be available at beach accesses or other arrangements are made. Overnight parking is not allowed at public beach accesses. We would need to know what the parking plan is. We ask that you and your guests be respectful of private properties and streets in regards to parking.

*Solid Waste* - Usually when a reception is catered the caterer disposes of the solid waste/recyclables off-site. If not, additional automated carts may be necessary as the cottages are not designed to handle the refuse for a large event. Trash cannot be left in bags sitting beside the carts for pick up.

*Recycling* – each residence is offered to participate in recycling subscription. Please take note of the collection days that is posted on the cart.

*Chairs on the beach* – a cap of 40 chairs is allowed for events on the beach. A drive lane must remain open for emergency vehicles and personnel to pass along the beach. Benches are not allowed as they can vary in length. Please do not put-up rope or tape to reserve a section of the beach as it could be a hazard to the beach goers, children and/or wildlife etc.

*Items on the beach* – a portable arbor may be used; it can be placed on the beach no more than one hour before the ceremony and removed no longer than one hour after the ceremony. For the safety of the birds, fish, and other wildlife please remove all trash and/or items used with the event from the

beach. In accordance to Town Code, all items must be removed from the beach by 8:00 p.m. Please do not put up rope or tape as it could be a hazard to the beach goers, children and/or wildlife etc.

*Wish/sky lanterns, balloon releases, and fireworks* - are prohibited by Town Code. Balloons, strings, artificial flower petals etc. are not allowed on the beach as they pose a threat to marine life, wildlife, and humans if ingested.

*Alcohol* - complimentary alcohol is allowed – open cash bar is not – no sales. No glass please.

*Noise* – the Town has a noise ordinance which can be found in its entirety on our website [www.nagsheadnc.gov](http://www.nagsheadnc.gov) Music is allowed in the background.

*Tents* – tents are allowed on private property. Large tents require an inspection by the Fire Dept. please call 252-441-5909 for further information.

*Beach Pit Fires* – are allowed on the beach with a permit (with a fee). Permits are only issued by the Fire Dept. between 5:30 pm and midnight daily based on current wind speed and fire danger conditions. [www.nagsheadfirerescue.com](http://www.nagsheadfirerescue.com)

*Beach Driving* – vehicles are allowed on the beach from October 1 through April 30, with a Town-issued permit. Beach drivers are usually courteous to wedding ceremonies on the beach.

*Jennette's Pier* – pier management MUST be contacted to hold a wedding on their property.

*Marriage licenses* – can be obtained from the Dare County Register of Deeds office. For more information contact them at 252-475-5970 or <http://www.darenc.gov>

*Unmanned Aircraft* - If using small, unmanned aircraft photography over public property, FAA qualifications apply.

*Shoreline Management (Beach Renourishment)* – Check our website for up-to-date information for beach nourishment. [www.nagsheadnc.gov](http://www.nagsheadnc.gov)

These websites should be able to answer your questions concerning the legalities for NC marriages <http://www.outerbanksweddingguide.com> or <https://www.obxwa.com/>

Please call or email with any other questions you may have.

*Katie Anzalone*

Town of Nags Head

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