Felt Estate

Common Questions Answered

Planning an event at the Felt Estate is exciting. The historic mansion and grounds offer endless possibilities for making your event truly historical. Here are some of the more common questions and answers you may have while planning your event.

My contract outlines a time. Do I have to work within those time-frames?

Yes. You have rented the mansion and grounds for a specific time. Due to outside contractors, other events and staffing issues, you must keep your event to the allotted time. That increment of time must include your set-up and tear down as well as your caterer, florist, hairdresser, photographer, etc use of the property.

If you decide you need more time than your contract has allotted, you may purchase additional hours.

May I schedule a rehearsal time for the grounds?

Yes. Depending on previously scheduled events, the grounds are available for rehearsal at no charge. They must be scheduled with the event coordinator in advance. Keep in mind that your event may fall in the middle of a three-event weekend. For example, if your event is Saturday, there may be another rental on Friday and Sunday. You may need to adjust your rehearsal time to a morning or even Thursday in order to make use of the grounds. The house will not be open during this time.

A 1-hour rehearsal is included with the rental of the Chapel at Shore Acres.

Can I store items for my event in the house before my rental time?

No. Due to a busy rental schedule the refrigerator, freezer and storage areas are reserved for your rented time allotment only.

Is smoking allowed?

No. Due to the recent change in Michigan law, smoking on the grounds of the Felt Estate is prohibited. There is a small smoking patio to the north of the house near the drive.

Are pets allowed?

Yes, with some ground rules. We understand that a pet may play a role in your event and we want all of your loved ones to help make your event historical. Please remember to pick-up after your pet on the mansion grounds. It is also a good idea to bring a crate for your pet to be able to relax before and after the pets’ part in your event.
How long does it take to set-up before an event?

It usually takes two hours to set-up before an event. A team of people working with well outlined specifics aid in making the process smooth.

How long does it take to clean-up after an event?

Clean-up usually takes 1 hour for your personal belongings and decor. Please remember to include this time while planning the end of your event.

I've hired a rock band/DJ for my event. Is the loud music going to be a problem?

Believe it or not, we do have neighbors and we do everything we can to keep music loud enough for you to enjoy, but quiet enough so that our neighbors can sleep at night. Music, inside and outside the house, must be turned off at 11 p.m.

Is there a mansion representative while my event is in progress?

Yes. Your contract includes a venue coordinator. The coordinator's job is to help make your event run smoothly, but they do not act as a wedding coordinator. The mansion representative will assist in issues that may arise with the house such as electrical, mechanical, water and other issues that may arise. Mansion representatives will also interact with your guests to answer questions about the mansion and grounds. The mansion representative will be the first person to greet you when your rental time begins and be the last person out of the house at the end of the evening. Suggested gratuity for your mansion representative is $1 per guest.

May I move furniture to accommodate my event?

No. Furniture cannot be moved within the house. Moving furniture damages the floor and walls of the house.

There are tables and chairs available for use on the main floor and ballroom.

Are the mosquitoes bad?

Like any location in West Michigan, mosquitoes can be quite prevalent during warm, humid summer days. The Felt Estate works with local lawn care specialists and pest control to keep the mosquito population in control. We do recommend that you bring mosquito spray for yourself and any guests who may be extra sensitive.

Can I use sparklers/floating lanterns for my send-off?

No. The use of fireworks is prohibited as outlined in your contract. The mansion is located in a critical dune area as well as a National Historic site. We cannot take any risks with fireworks.