

# Planning Your Ceremony



How does a wedding usually go?

This is a list of what to expect. Hope it helps!

## Groom's Entrance

Grooms get their moment too! There are different ways for the Groom to enter. He can just wait up front, he can be walked in by his parent (s), he can enter by himself, or perhaps he has children that could walk him up. How about music? Did you know that the Groom could also have his own song if he likes? Personalize!



## Processional ♥

The wedding party enters the ceremony.

There are a few different ways this can happen. They can enter as couples, individuals, or a mixture of both. We will discuss the options and confirm your preference at our Pre Ceremony meeting.





## Giving away of the Bride ♥

Traditionally the Bride is given away by her Father. You can have me ask, "Who gives this woman in marriage?" Which he may reply "I Do." or "Her Mother and I do." Or you can just have him escort you down the aisle and hand you off to your Groom. Whichever version you are more comfortable with.



## Is your dad no longer with us? Did you grow up without a Dad?

I am sorry. There are ways around this. You can invite someone who played the Father figure in your life to escort you down the aisle. Examples are Mother, Grandfather, Uncle, etc. Some Brides choose to walk up the aisle by themselves. Some have had one of their children escort them. You could even walk up with your Groom.

## Introduction ♥

I welcome your guests and speak of marriage, love, & commitment.

## Consent of marriage ♥

Bride and Groom express consent for marriage.

This is a legal requirement. Basically, I need to make sure you are both present with the intent to be married. I also need to make sure you are both present by your own free will and no one is forcing or bribing you to do so. This is usually me asking you, "You both wish to be married. Is that correct?" Or this is where the famous "Do you take this woman to be your lawfully wedded wife, through sickness and health..... etc comes into play.

I do not ask, "Is there anyone here who objects if so speak now or forever hold your peace." This is old school and if they don't like it they should not be there:) Those are my thoughts anyway!

## Readings - This Is An Add-ON Option



I think it's great if you have guest readings. This moves attention back towards the couple and the guests. Readings also give the honor of participation to two or perhaps more people.

I suggest two, one from the Bride's family/friends and one from the Groom's. But you can have none, one, two, three or, at the very most, four readers.

Readings can be anything you want within reason! Song lyrics, poems, extracts from films or plays, or even something that is specially written for this purpose. BUT they are not speeches so suggestions that start with "I first met Liz when we were 3 ...." are probably not really for this ceremonial sector, they are better reserved for the reception. They can be any length but typically 6 to 20 sentences long.

I would like you to bring these readings with to our Pre Ceremony meeting so that I can make sure they fit in the part of the ceremony they are intended for. I will print a card with the reading on it and bring it to the ceremony, in addition to whatever the reader him/herself brings. Just in case they misplace their copy or forget it at home.

If you will be having two readings, one would normally go here, moving the attention away from your Officiant and back to you and your guests. The second reading would go after signing the Marriage License or Unity Ceremony if you are having one!



## Vows ♥

You will exchange your vows, traditional or personal.

This part of the ceremony you will express to one another your love, commitment, and promise to the other and your marriage.

You may write your own vows if you would like. You can memorize them, write them down, or have me print them out and keep them safe.

I will also supply you with multiple example vows that you may use, mix and match, or personalize.

Your Vows can be exchanged in a repeat after me style, you can read them, recite them from memory, or with the "I Do" style. However, you would like. I am all for personalizing!





## Blessing of rings ♥

I explain the meaning of the ring.  
Traditional or personal.

This is another area I recommend you personalize. After your vows are exchanged I ask, "May we have the rings, please." As the rings are being brought forward or handed to you (which again there are different options for bringing in the rings) I will read to your guests what the wedding rings mean to you or bless them if you prefer. Again, I will provide you with examples.

## Exchange of rings ♥

Here you will slip the rings on each other's fingers while sharing what giving the other the ring means.

For example, with this ring I Thee Wed, let this ring be a constant reminder of my love for you, etc....

I will provide you with examples.



## Unity Ceremony &/Or Readings - This Is An Add-ON Option

If you wish to have readings, poems, or any sort of unity ceremony (candle, sand, bouquet, etc) that is done at this time.

Symbolize the coming together of two separate lives becoming one! This is a great way to add personality to your ceremony. Don't be limited to what everyone else is doing. Be creative! There are so many options. Examples include sand, candles, tree planting, beer, wine, love letter box, stone blessings, you name it! Google unity ceremony! You will find all kinds of neat ideas.

This is also where signing the Marriage License would take place if you would like it done during your ceremony.

## Conclusion ♥

A little more on love and commitment and what your friends and family just witnessed.



## Pronouncement ♥ (The Kiss)

You are pronounced as husband and wife, you may kiss your bride. Ladies and gentlemen, it is my privilege to introduce to you for the first time.....



## Recessional ♥

The wedding party leaves the ceremony. It is a celebration! Choose fun upbeat music for this!

If any announcements need to be made,



I will do that here.

♥ = Included in the  
Basic Package  
Pricing



I hope you found this helpful!