



## Ceremony Guide

### PROCESSIONAL

**Basic Terms:** When the wedding party walks in to Music

**Songs Needed:** One song for the wedding party & family + One song for the Bride (traditional). You can also do just one song for everyone. You want to make sure you “stop/start” with the music the least amount possible. You can do “Canon in D” or outside traditional. When songs are slowed down and played acoustically, they can sound totally different. Your first dance song, for example, without the words and played via string quartet...a song that is “yours” but you may find too silly...do it! Some great examples for processional songs when played acoustically are:

- “How did you talk to an Angel” - The Heights
- “Fools Rush In” - Elvis Presley
- “Kiss the Girl” - Little Mermaid
- “She” - Elvis Costello
- “Forever” - Bryan Adams
- “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” - Judy Garland

**Order:** Many options!

**Notes:**

- Traditional order for your processional:
  1. Family Members: Parents + Grandparents (if they are able to walk)
  2. Officiant followed by the Groom + Groomsmen (down the aisle, down the right side, or from the side)  
*Note: You can reverse 1 & 2!*
  3. Flower Girls/Ring Bearer
  4. Bridal Party (Groomsmen can escort the Bridesmaids as well)  
*Note: You can reverse 3 & 4!*
  5. Bride + Father of the Bride / Stepfather of the Bride/ Both Parents / Sibling / Close Friend/ or No escort
- Depending on family situations, the ceremony processional can be done in many ways. It also depends if the groomsmen are escorting the bridesmaids down the aisle, or lining up at the front after entering in a single line from the back. Here are a few ways that work with both groomsmen options:
  - Sweet Mother of the Bride Touch: The MOB needs to be escorted by someone, so why not have the MOB escorted by the Groom before the Parents of the groom. A definite “awe” factor as two families become one. The order would go like this: Grandparents, Mother of the Bride escorted by the Groom, Parents of the Groom, Flower Girls/Ring Bearers, Bridesmaids, Bride escorted by her escort.
  - Sweet Mother of the Groom touch: Have the groom escort his Mom and the Groom’s Dad follow closely behind or on the other side of the MOG.

### OPENING REMARKS

**Basic Terms:** A story or nice 2-3 minute speech about the couple and/or love. The officiant should touch on 3 things in any order:

1. When the couple met (No embarrassing stories here)
2. Why he/she feels they are perfect together
3. About what marriage is (*or a quote*)

**Songs Needed:** No songs needed.

**Example Text:**

**Officiant:** We are gathered here today to celebrate one of life’s greatest moments, and to cherish the words which shall unite \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in marriage. Marriage is the promise between two people who love each other, and who trust in that love, who honor one another as individuals, and who wish to spend the rest of their lives together. This ceremony is a symbol of two people in love, who put the other in front themselves, and want to pledge in front of their family & friends that they will do this for eternity. It is a symbol of the promises you will make to each other to continue growing stronger as individuals and as partners, no matter what challenges or successes you encounter together in the years before you. Today, your lives, which began on separate paths, will be joined as one.

(optional) When \_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_ met....

(optional) This is why \_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_ are perfect for each other and will no doubt spend the rest of their lives devoted to making each other happy.



## READING | POEM | SPOKEN LYRICS

**Basic Terms:** This is optional and does not need to be done, but nice. A poem from Winnie the Pooh, Dr. Seuss or Shakespeare, lyrics to a song you love or your first dance song (love this!), a short story about being best friends...think outside the box! This is also a great way to add religion in your non-church wedding if you would like to add a reading from the Bible. "Love is Kind..." reading is a great option. "Falling in Love is like owning a Dog" is a very cute poem option.

**Songs Needed:** No songs needed, but instead of a reading or poem, you could have someone special sing a song that is near & dear to you.

**Note:** Having a sibling, bridesmaid, maid of honor, best man, friend (or someone you need to feel special that is not in the bridal party) do a reading of some kind adds some romance to the wedding, breaks up the officiant's words and is a nice touch if you feel you want to lengthen the ceremony.

### Example Text:

**Officiant:** The Bride and Groom have asked \_\_\_\_\_ to share a poem/story/etc. by \_\_\_\_\_ called \_\_\_\_\_.

## VOWS

**Basic Terms:** This is where you take each other's hands and share your devotion to each other and what you vow to do for the rest of your lives. You can write your own, or use the example text below.

**Songs Needed:** No songs needed, unless you are Uncle Jesse from *Full House* and plan on singing your vows while playing the piano.

**Own Vows:** A great guide to writing your own vows is to be sure include these five things:

1. Something that will bring a happy tear or make him/her smile (and make his/her heart smile).
2. Something funny to make him/her laugh.
3. How you felt when you first fell in love.
4. How life has been with him/her since.
5. How devoted you will be in the future.

**Example Text for Non-Written Vows:** *Feel free to customize or personalize.*

**Officiant:** \_\_\_\_\_, do you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your wife/husband, your partner in life and your one true love? Will you cherish your union and love her/him more each day than you did the day before? Will you trust and respect her/him, laugh and cry with her/him, love her/him faithfully through good times and bad, regardless of the obstacles you may face together? Will you give your hand, your heart, and your love, from this day forward for as long as you both shall live?

**Bride/Groom:** I do!

{Repeat to Bride/Groom}

## RINGS

**Basic Terms:** Time to trade rings! The best man will be holding these and the officiant should ask him to place the rings on his book/binder. If you like, have the officiant explain why this is significant and that the ring is a symbol of eternity, with no end.

**Songs Needed:** No songs needed.

### Example Text:

**Officiant:** May I have the rings, please? {Best Man gives rings to Officiant}

**Officiant:** \_\_\_\_\_, Please place this ring on her finger and repeat after me: \_\_\_\_\_, I give you this ring, as a daily reminder of my love for you for eternity.

**Groom:** \_\_\_\_\_, I give you this ring, as a daily reminder of my love for you for eternity. {slips ring on to first knuckle only, not all the way to avoid struggling up there!}

**Officiant:** \_\_\_\_\_, please place the ring on \_\_\_\_\_ finger and repeat after me: \_\_\_\_\_, I give you this ring, as a daily reminder of my love for you for eternity.

**Bride:** \_\_\_\_\_, I give you this ring, as a daily reminder of my love for you for eternity. {slips ring on}



#### KISS THE BRIDE

**Basic Terms:** Your first kiss as man & wife! The officiant can say a closing story, poem, or summary, or use the example text below.

**Songs Needed:** Song ready to play after you kiss and are announced.

**Example Text:**

**Officiant:** "You have made your marriage vows to one another, witnessed by your friends and family. You have sealed your vows with the giving and receiving of these rings." *{Officiant turns them towards each other, if not already, and places their hands in each other's.}* "By the power vested in me by the state of \_\_\_\_\_, I now pronounce you Man and Wife. \_\_\_\_\_, kiss your bride..."

{Big smooch!}

**Music Begins.**

#### RECESSIONAL

**Basic Terms:** You walk back down the aisle! Remember to smile! Husband, kiss her hand or her cheek for a good photo op'!

**Songs Needed:** An upbeat song should be played and you do not have to have it be a traditional choice. Think about melodies that are beautiful as instrumental. For example, "Island in the Sun," by Weezer or "Come Fly With Me," by Michael Buble are great instrumental tunes!

**Notes:** Bride & Groom, take a moment after the ceremony for you two, even just 5 minutes. Before pictures and dancing and greeting the guests start, really take a moment to enjoy each other in the first moments of marriage. Soak in it, kiss, hug and hold each other!