

**INFINITE**  
WEDDINGS



# THE INFINITE WEDDING GUIDE

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# CEREMONY

## ORDER OF EVENTS

1. Bride and Groom get ready separately
2. Make payments if needed
3. Groom arrives 45 minutes before the ceremony
4. Groom checks his details with marriage officer
5. Guests start arriving
6. Guests are ushered to their seats
7. Bride arrives just before the ceremony
8. Bride checks her details with marriage officer
9. Processional
10. Introduction
11. Vows
12. Rings
13. Unity candle
14. Pronouncement of marriage
15. The kiss
16. Recessional
17. Signing of register
18. Confetti

*Should you have any bills to pay that revolve around the ceremony, do so before it begins as you will not have much time afterwards.*

## BEFORE THE CEREMONY

The bride and groom will usually get ready separately, as superstition says that it brings bad luck for the groom to see the bride in her wedding dress before the



ceremony. This dates back to when arranged marriages were custom, and a wedding symbolized a business deal between two families. The father of the bride would fear that once the groom met the bride, he could call off the wedding. Therefore, in order to play it safe, the groom was only allowed to see his bride at the ceremony. Nowadays, couples say that this tradition makes the day more exciting, and there is nothing more magical than a groom seeing his bride for the first time as she walks down the aisle! Once ready, the groom and his party will make their way to the ceremony venue approximately 45 minutes before. Upon arrival, the groom checks in with the marriage officer to confirm all his personal details one last time. The bride will do exactly the same once she arrives at the ceremony venue, unless arranged otherwise.

## SEATING

♥ Traditionally: bride's friends and family sit on the left.

♥ Traditionally: groom's friends and family sit on the right.

Immediate family should sit in the first few rows, which you can section off with ribbons or rope as an indication that it is reserved. The amount of rows will obviously depend on the size of the family, but is usually around two or three. As a general rule, grandparents should not sit farther than the third row. The rest of the guests, friends and other relatives will then sit behind these few reserved rows.

## USHERS

Ushers are the people who show the guests to their seat, traditionally men, but today women also act as ushers. Couples often ask the groomsmen to act as ushers as it reduces the number of people with duties. As a general rule, one usher per fifty guests is a good ratio. Before the ceremony, the ushers indicate the reserved rows to immediate family and ensure that no-one else sits in them. They also look after the



mother of the bride as she ends up 'alone' since the father of the bride is usually with the bride before the processional. It is also their duty to ensure that everybody knows where the reception venue is and how to get there.

## **TRADITIONAL PROCESSIONAL (ENTRANCE)**

Processional music will begin as the following honour guests are being seated.

- ♥ The groom's grandmother.
- ♥ The bride's grandmother.
- ♥ The groom's parents.
- ♥ The bride's mother.
- ♥ The marriage officer and groom enter.
- ♥ The bridesmaids accompanied by the groomsmen - women stand to the left.
- ♥ The maid of honour accompanied by the best man - woman stands to the left.
- ♥ The ring bearer enters.
- ♥ The flower girls enters.
- ♥ Ushers cue the musicians/DJ.
- ♥ Music starts.
- ♥ The father of the bride walks the bride down the aisle - bride stands to the left.
- ♥ The bride gives her bouquet to her maid of honour.
- ♥ The father of the bride hands the bride over to the groom.
- ♥ Bride stands to the left of the man.

*Tradition has the bridesmaids follow the bride. Today, in most ceremonies, the bride enters last.*

## **TODAY**

- ♥ Brides often choose their own more popular music (be sure your marriage officer approves).
- ♥ Today some brides prefer to have both their parents walk them down the aisle.



- ♥ Some brides prefer to walk down the aisle with a brother, a relative or a friend.
- ♥ If the bride's father has passed away, do whatever feels most comfortable to you.

## TRADITIONS

- ♥ The order of bridesmaids does not matter, unless you prefer to line them up according to height.
- ♥ The traditional music used at weddings is the “Wedding March” and “ Here Comes The Bride”.
- ♥ The bride walks on the left of her father.
- ♥ The father of the bride kisses the bride on the cheek before handing her over to the groom.

## DIFFERENT PROCESSIONALS

Some want the bridesmaids and groomsmen to walk down the aisle together. Others want the bridesmaids to walk alone and the groomsmen to stand next to the groom at the altar. You could even have the bridesmaids start out by themselves and have the groomsmen meet them halfway down the aisle to escort them to the altar.

## INTRODUCTION

The introduction of a wedding ceremony will set the tone for the rest of the wedding. Every marriage officer has his/her own way, but find below an example of what to expect.

*“Friends and Family of the bride and groom, welcome and thank you for being here on this important day. We have been invited here today to witness and celebrate the uniting in marriage of bride and groom...”*





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