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weddings

# Wedding Ceremony Planning Worksheet

**Congratulations on your engagement! I am thrilled to be working with you and it will be my pleasure to help you create the wedding ceremony of your dreams!**

**Did you know that you may customize everything that is spoken during your ceremony? That's exciting ... but can be terrifying, too. Don't worry ... I am here to guide you through the entire process. After completing this worksheet together, I will create a draft for your review. Once the draft is in place ... we will bounce it back and forth over email until you are pleased with the result.**

**Are you ready? Let's get started!**

**The Happy Couple:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Ceremony:**  Simple  Basic Traditional  Customized Traditional

**Secular or Religious?** \_\_\_\_\_

**If religious, preferred bible translation?** \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, No, Maybe	Description
	<p><b>Procession</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>♥ The choreographed “walk down the aisle.”</li><li>♥ Symbolizes the transition of the couple’s two separate lives into one.</li><li>♥ Demonstrates your attendants’ support of your union by participating in the ceremony.</li><li>♥ Consider sequence, music, and placement at the altar.</li><li>♥ Notes (Order of Procession, participants, etc.):</li></ul>

	<p><b>Presentation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♥ This gives others (parents, children, etc.) the opportunity to give their approval or blessing on the ceremony.</li> <li>♥ The Officiant asks something like, “Who supports the marriage of this couple?”</li> <li>♥ After responding, “I do,” or “We do,” everyone takes their seat, and the ceremony begins.</li> <li>♥ Notes:</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Officiant’s Welcome</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♥ The Officiant calls together all in attendance to begin the ceremony.</li> <li>♥ Welcome and thank the guests and introduce the purpose of the gathering.</li> <li>♥ Notes:</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Opening Blessing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♥ Also known as the Invocation, the words spoken are intended to invoke a higher source to elevate the ceremony’s intent.</li> <li>♥ Notes:</li> </ul>
	<p><b>The Address</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♥ The Officiant shares the couple’s beliefs on the meaning of marriage.</li> <li>♥ Encourages reflection on the ceremony’s importance.</li> <li>♥ Notes:</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Declaration of Intent</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♥ The “I Do” portion of the ceremony.</li> <li>♥ This is a <b>LEGAL REQUIREMENT</b>.</li> <li>♥ The words spoken here are why the witnesses are at the wedding!</li> <li>♥ Traditionally, the couple answers, “I Do” when asked a question by the Officiant.</li> <li>♥ Notes:</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Ring Blessing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♥ Prayer or sentiment spoken by the Officiant before the couple exchanges the rings.</li> <li>♥ Notes:</li> </ul>
	<p><b>The Vows</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♥ A verbal exchange between the couple.</li> <li>♥ Some couples recite their vows from memory. Some choose to repeat their vows after the Officiant.</li> <li>♥ Notes:</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Exchange of Rings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♥ The physical exchange of rings.</li> <li>♥ Traditionally, this is done immediately after the vows are spoken.</li> <li>♥ Notes:</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Pronouncement of Marriage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♥ The Officiant pronounces the couple as married.</li> <li>♥ Notes:</li> </ul>
	<p><b>The Embrace</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♥ A kiss is shared between the newly married couple.</li> <li>♥ This kiss symbolizes the sealing of the couple's promises.</li> <li>♥ Notes:</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Closing Blessing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♥ Also known as the Benediction, these words send the couple into their new future together!</li> <li>♥ Notes:</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Presentation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♥ The Officiant introduces the newly married couple.</li> <li>♥ Notes:</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Recession</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♥ The wedding party, led by the married couple, exits down the aisle.</li> <li>♥ This symbolizes the end of the ceremony and the beginning of the celebration.</li> <li>♥ Notes:</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Readings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♥ One or more selections of scripture, poetry, lyrics, original compositions, or a live performance offered during the ceremony.</li> <li>♥ <b>Old Testament:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Genesis 1:26-28</li> <li>○ Genesis 2:4-9, 15-24</li> <li>○ Psalm 22:25-31</li> <li>○ Psalm 127</li> <li>○ Psalm 128</li> <li>○ Song of Solomon 2:10-13; 8:6-7</li> <li>○ Isaiah 43:1-7</li> <li>○ Isaiah 55:10-13</li> <li>○ Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11</li> <li>○ Isaiah 61:10-62:3</li> </ul> </li> <li>♥ <b>New Testament:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Matthew 5:1-10, 13-16</li> <li>○ Matthew 7:21, 24-29</li> <li>○ Matthew 19:4-6</li> <li>○ Matthew 22:35-40</li> <li>○ Mark 2:18-22</li> <li>○ Mark 10:6-9, 13-16</li> <li>○ John 2:1-10</li> <li>○ John 15:8-17</li> <li>○ 1 Corinthians 13:1-13</li> <li>○ Ephesians 3:14-21</li> <li>○ Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33</li> <li>○ Colossians 3:12-17</li> <li>○ 1 John 4:7-16</li> <li>○ Revelation 19:4-9</li> </ul> </li> <li>♥ Notes:</li> </ul>

### **Additional Ceremony Elements**

- ♥ An additional demonstration of the commitment being made by the couple.
- ♥ A great way to involve family members and children
- ♥ Examples include **Witness Response, Unity Candle, Sand Ceremony, Rose Ceremony, Breaking of the Glass Ceremony, Wine Ceremony, Hand-Fasting Ceremony, and Love Letter Ceremony.**
- ♥ Notes:

*Congratulations!*