



The Perfect Wedding

I do, I DO's!

Newsletter for Weddings by Sandy

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Table of Contents

Ceremony Writing

Some important tips for your ceremony to be successful

Receiving line, yes or no way!

Ceremony Tip

Do you have a back-up plan? What if it rains or the sun is shining and it is really hot?

A shady spot can be beautiful, but what will your photo's look like? Planning your wedding ceremony can be tricky in the fall or the spring. Choose a location that can accommodate either an inside or outside ceremony when planning. Consider ordering a tent as a back-up plan. Although expensive, this can be a wise decision when the weather is unpredictable.

A few tips to make your ceremony perfect

This is one of the most important days of your life; use these tips to create the perfect ceremony.

1. Ensure your guests arrive on time; if necessary put an earlier time on the invitation.
2. Hold a rehearsal; this way everyone knows their role and things will go smoother.

Ceremony Writing

The dress has been selected and the venue is paid for...what about the ceremony? Is it ready to go? Some brides, those that get married in a church, temple or synagogue, don't get to choose what is said at their ceremony, but since you have chosen an officiant your ceremony will be special, unique and personalized. So, what kind of ceremony do you want; religious, funny, simple or themed? Choosing the type of ceremony you want is the first step when working with an officiant who can give you the ceremony of your dreams.

Next, you will need to decide on the words that will become part of your ceremony. Selecting appropriate readings and vow selections that fit together can be difficult, especially if there is a theme. Allow your officiant to assist you with this process. Decide who will do your readings. Make sure they CAN read nothing is more embarrassing for you and the reader, when the person you select can't read.

Select the rituals you want to use. Lighting a candle is wonderful, but if the ceremony is outside and it is raining or windy, this won't work. Get creative, ask your officiant for ideas. Pouring sand is great if you have children and are blending two families, pouring water over your hands to wash away the past is great for vow renewals. There are so many great ideas, the sky is the limit. Involving your family members for a hand fasting is wonderful, too. Just use your imagination and you will find what is unique and special to you as a couple.

What about your vows? Are you planning to write your own? Writing your own is a wonderful way to express yourself and when the words come from your heart it is even more extraordinary, personal and moving. Allow your officiant to assist you. Ask for your vows to be printed off on cards, if you don't want to "repeat after" the officiant, then you can just read your vows to each other.

Finally, relax and enjoy your wedding ceremony. With a little bit of preparation the ceremony will be memorable and you and your guests will enjoy the ceremony and wonder at how you got it to be so special...

3. If your ceremony is outside do not use those plastic or flimsy runners. These runners tend to fly up in the breeze and you don't want folks tripping over them, use white painted bricks to hold them down. Add lots of flower petals to accent the runner.
4. Don't put the rings on the ring pillow, why would you entrust a toddler with thousands of dollars worth of jewelry? You can put some fake rings on the pillow.
5. Put someone in charge of bringing the rings and another person in charge of bringing the license, so you don't have to worry about this.
6. Have someone assist you with the ceremony line up, an Aunt or good friend or hire a ceremony coordinator, so things flow smoothly.

Receiving Line, Yes or No Way!

There are several things to consider when deciding whether or not to have a receiving line. How long will this take? What if the weather isn't so great...will your guests be inside or outside while they are waiting in line? What about those folks that have physical disabilities and can't stand in line? Which members of the wedding party should be in the receiving line? Where and when the receiving line should start?

Well let's run through the pros and cons. First of all you've just finished your ceremony, you are excited, and relieved that it is over and maybe you want a few minutes alone with each other...but wait you have a receiving line to get into. If you have just a few guests maybe it will take 15 minutes, but what if you have invited 100, 150 or more guests, you may be there an hour or more! Shaking hands, getting hugs and kisses (where is the antibacterial gel? Swine flu!).

Instead, take the time following dinner to speak to each guest and spend a little bit more time with them, However if you meet and greet each person after dinner, then you may not have as much time to dance and have fun...so what should you do? So many couples complain that their wedding day is just a blur because most of it was spent making the rounds greeting guests!

For practical purposes, it's good advice to limit the number of people in your receiving line. You will want to greet each guest and have your guests move quickly through the line (guests dislike standing in a slow moving receiving line) and avoid any delays to your reception getting under way. So, who should be in the receiving line?

A receiving line can be as long or short as you like and at its minimum include the bride, the groom and the hosts of the day. It is not unusual for one set of parents to stand in the receiving line and for the other set to mingle through the crowd of guests meeting and greeting them. The Maid of Honor and Bridesmaids generally participate, but the Groomsmen and ushers do not. Only children of the bridal couple participate in the receiving line other children who may have participated in the ceremony do not.

Your receiving line is a guarantee that you will meet and greet each individual guest, so where is the best place to have the receiving line? Choosing the site for the receiving line is important. You are going to be standing there for at least 15 minutes maybe more. Choose a space that is not going to feel crowded such as in a hall way, sidewalk, under a grove of trees or on the dance floor. Where ever you choose to stand, make it comfortable and easy for your guests to walk by on their way to the reception. Also make sure there is plenty of ventilation so the bride doesn't get overheated and so sweat isn't pouring off the brow of the groom. You might also want to consider when to hold the receiving line, immediately following the ceremony or just prior to the start of the wedding reception.

Whatever you decide to do, make sure your line moves quickly so you don't waste a moment of your special day. The goal is to have fun and greet your guests!