



The Perfect Wedding

Newsletter for Weddings by Sandy

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I do, I DO's!

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Ceremony Tip

What do you do when a family member or friend feels slighted or left out because they are not part of your ceremony? You can ignore them or... ask them to read a poem or a special reading during your ceremony. When you ask them, a couple of things will likely happen. They will either step up or they will step back and gasp, "Me! Read! In front of people?!" This reaction should solve your problem.

A few more ideas 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. If your parents are divorced and not cordial, then don't force them to work together on your special day. Ask once for your father to walk you down the aisle and then drop the subject, he will either do so or not. It is not worth the tears, anger and pain. Forgive him and move on

Dealing with Difficult Family Members and Guests

The venue has been selected and paid for and you have selected what you want your officiant to read...what about the needs of your guests? At what point do we (vendors) and the couple (the focus of the day), cave to family members who have such restrictive beliefs and needs that it disrupts the wedding ceremony and day?

People who show up late and disrupt or completely miss the ceremony, people with special needs or people with a different belief system can really cause some issues for a couple who is looking to plan their perfect dream wedding.

Family members who selfishly and willingly completely disrupt a wedding day at the last moment by being late; keeping perhaps over a hundred other people and the couple waiting are just rude and probably shouldn't come to the ceremony. If you are going to be late, wait until the ceremony is over to walk into the site.

What do you do when older and handicapped friends and family members want to attend your wedding? Is the venue ADA equipped? Is your ceremony outside? This is especially important at some of the historic venues throughout our country, where they just don't have this type of setup. It can be embarrassing for someone to be carried or made a fuss over when they cannot access the ceremony or reception site.

One solution is to provide a live video feed, using a large video screen or computer monitor to make it seem as if they were on site. This works great for family members who are not able to attend the ceremony because of long distances, too! Ask your DJ or your videographer for this type of option. With today's access to the Internet, live feeds are becoming very popular!

What about family members who don't share the same belief system as the couple? This brings up many questions about where our loyalty, lies. As an officiant, I have been hired by the couple to ensure their ceremony is read as written. I offer no explanation about the ceremony to anyone other than to say, "This is what the couple selected and wanted and they hired me for this reason." As for the couple, it can be difficult, being pulled by so many people. I try to assist them and if necessary I speak to these family members and help them to understand that it is not about them, but about the couple who are the focus of the celebration. This must be done with a great deal of diplomacy and respect. If no agreement can be made then, given enough notice, I would suggest that the family members in question skip the ceremony, and join the guests for the reception.

2. Ensure your guests arrive on time; if necessary put an earlier time on the invitation. This will aid in keeping those that typically arrive late to arrive on time.
3. Don't invite guests or family members to your ceremony if you feel they will not be comfortable with a non-religious or secular service. Of course, invite them to your reception. Nothing is worse than having them talk about your ceremony in a negative way.

To make people in a wheel chair comfortable speak to your venue coordinator about leaving a space for the wheel chair on the end of an aisle. This way the person can "seat" themselves into the position and enjoy the ceremony without disrupting anyone to move a chair or two.

It is a sad day when the ceremony is edited to the point of blandness. There is no payoff when the couple gets shortchanged on an experience that is one of the most important and significant in their lives and the guests are cheated of an inspiring experience crafted by a talented and articulate professional. And speaking from a professional point of view--the officiant may walk away feeling indignant and empty, because their best work was limited by the restrictive beliefs placed on them by difficult people who didn't hire them.

So, if you want a beautiful, inspiring ceremony that is not limited to specific beliefs then call your officiant and see the options available...usually the sky's the limit!

Guests—WHAT is your problem?!

Many times guests come to a wedding ceremony with children, talk at the most inconvenient times and walk in and of the ceremony when it is not appropriate. And let's not even mention cell phones....oh darn, I did....

Bringing children isn't so bad, if they were invited and you are aware of the issue...you can hire a day care provider to entertain them or make sure your invitation states "adults only." What do you do when your guests bring their children anyway? If they are older kids, it is probably ok, although your caterer might be concerned, about where to sit them and if there is enough food. If they are toddlers or babies, they might cry during your ceremony, it might be a good idea to ask them to sit near the back, so if they have to leave due to a crying baby, it will not be so distracting. If you are prepared to have children at your ceremony make sure you have some sort of entertainment for them to keep them busy.

What do you do about people who talk during the entire ceremony? Unfortunately, there is not much you can do to prevent this type of thing from happening, but your officiant can probably find a solution such as silence to make them aware of their offensive behavior.

Another annoying guest is the one who gets up to use the bathroom or smoke during the ceremony...why? Who knows why, but if they do, your on-site coordinator or day of planner can get them to stay out of the ceremony site until your ceremony is over.

Finally, what about the guests who text or are on their cell phones during the ceremony? Your officiant can ask your guests to turn off their cell phones before your ceremony, which should alleviate this problem.

So no matter what your guests do, most of the annoying and rude behaviors, although not possible to always stop or control, can be managed by your on-site coordinator, day of planner or officiant with a little bit of planning on your part. Make sure to ask how these professionals manage these rude people situations.