



# *Wedding Processional / Recessional Guidelines*

## *General*

Low volume music can be played as the guests arrive.

The Bride and Groom's appointed friends, relatives or Ushers should greet guests as they arrive, and should escort them to their seats - filling the front seats first with guests to prevent a look of large empty sections on your photos. Ushers should be mindful to leave a few seats open upfront, on both sides, for the family.

Many couple's offer their guests a program of the ceremony.

For a traditional Wedding, the bride's guests sit on the Left (Bride stands to the left of Groom). Otherwise allow for general seating.



The bride can walk down the aisle with whoever she wishes and with as many people as she wishes - both the Father of the Bride and Stepfather can simultaneously walk her down the aisle, an uncle, a son, a single parent or both mother and father.

## *The Ceremony Begins*

Wedding music commences, either a separate song for the Bridesmaids to enter and a different song for the Bride. Alternatively, the entire wedding party can use just one song.

## *Traditional Processional Order*

Groom, Best Man and Groomsmen are standing up front facing towards the seated guests.

The Usher leads the Groom's mother to her seat.

The Usher leads the Bride's mother to her seat.

The Bridesmaids walk down the aisle and stand next to or opposite the Groomsmen.

The Maid of honor walks down the aisle and stands at the head of the Bridesmaids.

The Ring Bearer and Flower Girl walk down the aisle and stand with the Bridesmaids.

## *Wedding March Music or the couple's choice of music begins*

The Father of the Bride or bride's escort(s) walks her down the aisle.

## *The Marriage Vows and Solemnizing Process*

Father gives away Bride, helps lift up her veil, gives her a kiss

Groom then shakes the father's hand.

Father returns to his seat next to his partner.

The Bride passes the Maid of Honor her flowers, walks forward and joins hands with Groom  
Celebrant's Greeting and Introduction of the Couple.

Ceremony begins.

Prayers, Reading by family or friends

Declaration of Consent

Vows

The Ring Ceremony and other Wedding Customs and Cultural Elements, ie. candle lighting, knot tying, rose ceremony, sharing of wine, etc.

Celebrant's Pronouncement of Marriage

The Kiss

Signing of the register. (usually music is played here)

The Presentation of the Newlywed Couple

Congratulations and final blessing.

## *The Recessional*

Music plays as the Bride and Groom walk hand in hand down the aisle,

Maid of Honor and Best Man follow when the Bride and Groom have cleared the seating area.

Bridesmaids and Groomsmen do the same as above

Flower Girl and Ring Bearer follow.

Next Mother and Father of the Bride.

Then Mother and Father of the Groom

Followed by the Grandparents and other guests.

## *Eco Friendly Exit Tradition*

Today, most venues do not allow you to throw rice or confetti as the newly married couple exit the venue. Alternative suggestions can include a mix of bird's seed (some couples have their names and wedding date placed on the seed packets), bubbles, or flower petals.

