



lesson eight:
**THE
CEREMONY**





PROCESSIONAL:

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| 1. Candle Lighters | 6. Brides Mother
<i>Escorted by the groom, sibling or usher, Sit on left side</i> |
| 2. Grooms Grandparents
<i>Escorted by a sibling or usher, Sit on right side</i> | 7. Bridal Party
<i>One at a time or as couples</i> |
| 3. Brides Grandparents
<i>Escorted by a sibling or usher, Sit on left side</i> | 8. Ring Bearer |
| 4. Grooms Parents
<i>Escorted by the groom or usher, Sit on right side</i> | 9. Flower Girl |
| 5. Groom stays up at the front | 10. Bride & Father |

DECOR & SET UP FOR THE CEREMONY:

- Marriage Licence • Flower Girl Basket • Guest Book
- The Rings • Programs • Pew Bows or Decor
- Ring Bearer Pillow • Card Basket • The Unity Candles or Sand

REHEARSAL:

Rehearsal usually happens the night before the wedding day. This is where we do a full run through of the ceremony with the bridal party. The officiant takes over the actual ceremony section, but your role is to help the bridal party get down the aisle. Always take a few minutes to go over the wedding day itinerary with the bridal party and pass out mini timelines for them to take with them. (this is page 7 of the itinerary)

MARRIAGE LICENCES:

Depending on what state you live in, the only person who needs to sign is the officiant. My personal preference is to have the officiant sign the marriage license the night of the rehearsal, so you do not have to worry about finding time to do it on the wedding day. If you want to sign on the wedding day, be prepared to do it right before or right after the ceremony with your officiant.

RINGS:

Did you know the Ring Bearer never sees or touches the real rings on wedding day?! The rings are something I keep track of the whole day. First, they should be with the Bride while she is getting ready so the photographer can take pictures of them with the rest of her little details. After the first look, you should advise the Bride and Groom to wear their rings for their photos. Even though they are not "married" yet. When they look back at those photos, they will want their rings on for the photographs. When photos are done and it is time to line up for the ceremony, the rings are given to the Best Man. He will keep these in his pocket until the officiant asks for them during the ceremony.

THE 30 MINUTE COUNTDOWN:

Guests arrive to weddings about 30 minutes before start time, which means the Bride and bridal party need to be ready and hidden well before start time. This is a perfect time for the Bride to sit, put her feet up, touch up her makeup and drink some water. At this time you need to make sure the music is playing, ushers are seating the guests and the guest book attendant is greeting the guests. About 5 minutes prior to start time, gather the grandparents and start lining everyone up for the processional. Leave the Bride hidden in the back with her father or whomever is walking her down the aisle. You never want the Bride to be alone at this time. Once the processional begins - make sure everyone looks good before they walk down the aisle. This entails no bra straps showing, no chewing gum, the Best Man has the rings, etc.

Once the Flower Girl and Ring Bearer start to make their way down the aisle, walk over to the Bride and say "It's Time". Make sure she knows to look up if she starts to cry and to give her flowers to any of the bridesmaids at any time if they get too heavy. (TIP: At any point during the day, I try to take the bouquet from the Bride as it can be very heavy and uncomfortable.) When you get her in front of the door, wait for the music and fluff her dress as she starts to walk down the aisle. Shut the doors behind her (you can get ushers to help with the doors) and then grab all of the cards, gifts and decor in the lobby and drive straight to the reception if it is at a different location.

CEREMONY EXIT:

Typically you will not be there at this time, so it is very important to communicate with the photographer that they will be in charge of getting the bridal party onto the limo/party bus. Most of the time the Bride and Groom will want to do a fun bubble, bird seed, rose petal exit. Delegate the program and guest book attendants to help pass these items out to the guests, so you can make sure they get used.



