

Invitations and Wedding Stationery Tips

Page 1 of 3

Consider your budget

Invitations and other wedding stationery come in a variety of papers, styles, with or without graphic designs, printed for you, or ready for you to print on your home or office printer. This gives you a wide choice and the opportunity to express yourselves. Be very specific about your invitations and other stationery budget and stick with it. When planning your budget, take into consideration the type of wedding you plan to have, the style of invitation and stationery you fancy and the number of invitations and other stationery items you need. Whether you choose formal, elegant, informal, casual or fun invitations, they should reflect your personalities and set the tone for your wedding. You can further personalize with a stamp and a design you pick out.

The actual cost will also depend on whether you plan to order pre-printed invitation or purchase blanks to design and print, using your computer and printer. Be sure to have on hand more than you need so you do not run short.

Start early *

As soon as you have your actual guests list, send out a **Save the Date card**. As to the invitations, leave yourselves plenty of time to consider and do full research of all your choices. If you want to design and print your own invitations, you will be able to take your time rather than rush. If you plan to order pre-printed invitations, do so at least 12 weeks before the wedding and mail them out 6 to 8 weeks before the event date.

What to Include in the invitation envelope?

Since the invitation provides a means of communication between you and your guests, place all the information you need to share in the same envelope. The envelope should include:

- The **Wedding Invitation** that includes both, ceremony and reception details. Or if you choose to have a small private ceremony and a larger reception send a **Ceremony Invitation** to guests who are invited only to the ceremony and a **Reception Invitation** for guests who are invited only to the reception.
- A **Wedding Response Card** (RSVP) with a requested response date that is at least three weeks before the wedding and a stamped pre-addressed envelope. The card serves to let you know whether your guests will be attending and if so, how many will be attending. If you ask for it, they will also enter their choice of the reception meal. Follow up with a phone call to those who did not respond in time.

What is Optional?

- Nicely printed **Directions and Maps** to the ceremony and reception sites.
- A **List of Hotels**, especially if you plan to reserve blocks of rooms for out of town guests.
- Your **Wedding Registry Information**

Why Ceremony, Reception, or Wedding Invitations?

Quite often, couples hold the wedding ceremony at one location and the reception at another. Some brides and grooms may invite certain guests only to the ceremony, others only to the reception and still others to both. These couples need various invitations. Some that contain the ceremony information some that contains details about the reception and still other that specify the location and time of both the ceremony and the reception celebration.

Invitations and Wedding Stationery Tips

Page 2 of 3

What Other Stationery Should We Consider?

- **Wedding Programs** containing the order of, the participants and an explanation of the ceremony.
- You may want to consider any or all of Personalized: **Place Cards, napkins, gift tags** and **favor bags** for the reception.
- If yours is a destination wedding, or you expect out of town guests, send them **Accommodation Cards** that include specifics such as: nearby airports, hotel options or the particular hotels where you reserved rooms for them, area attractions and rental car agencies or the agency where you have reserved rental cars in their names. If you plan to have your wedding on a cruise, send the guests who will join you information regarding the cruise line, length of cruise, reservation information and other specifics you think are important.
- For after the wedding you may send out **Marriage Announcements** but you must send out **Thank you Cards**.
- If you have a wedding web site add a card that provides the web address.
- A note about your wedding gift registries if you have any.
- All the add- on items are optional. Only the Invitation, be it to the ceremony, reception or both and if you want to have a head count, the response card are mandatory. Adding information to your invitations offers you the most appropriate way to ensure proper communications with your guests.
- When sending your invitations, **do not** request or even suggest in a poem or otherwise, monetary gifts. Your wedding is not a money making proposition and gifts are not the price of admission. It goes against all wedding etiquettes. In fact, some guests will find it offensive and may not attend your special celebration.

Tips:

- When ready to mail, check the mailing cost per card.
- Buy enough pretty and or wedding themed stamps.
- If you include response cards, affix a stamp to each reply envelope.
- Mail ALL your envelopes together and if possible, rather than just dropping them in the mail box, ask the clerk in the post office to hand cancel them.

Invitations and Wedding Stationery Tips

Page 3 of 3

Proofread your invitations and stationery

- Are all the names spelled correctly?
- Is the time, day of the week and date information correct?
- Is the name of the ceremony location spelled correctly?
- Is the ceremony location address information complete and correct?
- Is the name of the reception location spelled correctly?
- Is the reception location address information complete and correct?
- Is every word on the invitation spelled correctly and is the punctuation correct?
- Are all the numbers spelled out?
- Is the text centered?
- Are the card's size, color, fonts and fonts color, typesetting and design as you envisioned them?

About Print Your Own Stationery

Currently, more and more brides and grooms opt for blank invitations and stationery.

It is an excellent idea you may wish to consider because:

- Pre-printed invitations and stationery are very expensive. Printing your own saves you money.
- Printing your own invitations is easy and creating them is fun.
- A-wedding Day offers you [printing your own invitations templates](#).
- All you need in addition to the blank cards are a computer and an inkjet or laser printer.
- You can choose from a large yet growing variety of print your own invitations of very high quality.
- You can design and word your invitations and stationery so it is very personal and unique.
- You can choose your own fonts and colors and not be limited to those offered by an invitation printing company.
- You are sure to have your invitations done to your specifications and on time.
- You are sure to have your announcement save the date cards, RSVP/response cards, place cards, programs, menus, Thank you notes or other wedding stationery match or coordinate with your invitations.
- Most invitation kits also include matching note cards and envelopes for both.
- If you mention it to relatives or close friends, you may receive blank invitation kits as an engagement gift.
- A friends or family member who is a graphic designer may offer to design your invitations and stationery and may even print it for you as a gift.

We are often asked if the self printed invitations and stationery will look Home Made. The answer is NO. If you choose the right blanks to print onto, have a reliable laser or inkjet color printer and follow instructions* carefully, your invitations, announcement and stationery will not only look very professional, but will be original. * For printing instructions go to: <http://a-weddingday.com/MakeYourOwnStationery.html>

List your stationery needs such as: Engagement announcements, Save the Date notices, invitations, (RSVP) reply cards, wedding programs, menus, thank you cards, etc. Decide on the layout, color scheme and wording and surf the Internet. If you prefer pre-printed invitation, Google **wedding invitations** and do a comparison shopping. If you plan to print your own, type **print your own wedding invitations** in the search engine to find the blanks that are just right for you.

* Always order extra invitations, envelopes and note cards. This leaves room for errors as well as for keepsakes to be presented in family albums, scrap books and frames.

- A simple way to keep track of all responses is by assigning numbers to your guests and placing the appropriate number on the each response card. If you receive any response cards from guests who did not enter their names, you will know who they are.

I Glossary for Wedding Invitations and Stationery

Page 1 of 2

Following are terms often used with and associated with Invitations and other stationery. Knowing them will help you not only decide what you want, but communicate it to your stationery vendor.

- **Announcement Cards**

Announcement cards are used to announce your engagement and share your happiness with friends and family. They are also appropriate as invitations to Engagement parties and Bridal Showers.

- **A size envelope:** Envelopes (with square flaps) come in a variety of colors, finishes and sizes, commonly used for invitations and accessories. Available from A-1 to A-10.
- **Backer:** A heavy card usually a dark color to support and serve as a back of a printed sheet.
- **Bleed:** Any image with coverage to the end of the sheet leaving no margin.
- **Card:** A simple four corner card usually of heavy stock (60Lb, 80Lb, 100Lb) that is ideal for invitations, responds, thank you, etc.
- **Deckle Edge:** Uneven, feathery finish on the edge of paper, very common on parchment.
- **Debossing:** An image is pressed into paper using a special die, resulting in an image that is lower than the paper surface.
- **Embossing:** An image is pressed from the back of the paper into a die on the press which makes a raised image on the front of the sheet, very popular with monograms on invitation etc...
- **Foil stamping:** A process by which an image is transferred by applying heat and pressure. This image is transferred from a roll of film/foil to the paper surface using a special die, many foil metallic colors, gold, silver copper, pearl etc. can be used.
- **Fold-over:** Any sheet of paper with score for folding. Used for any purpose from announcements to menu covers and more.
- **French Fold:** A sheet of paper folded twice, first in half and then again in half creates a French fold. Commonly used for invitations.
- **Gate Fold:** A fold with a left half-panel and a right half-panel that fold toward the center of the larger middle panel.
- **Gold stamping:** A gold metallic foil is used in the stamping process. See foil stamping.
- **Guillotine Cutting:** Straight machine cutting of paper.
- **Inside Envelope, also called the Inner Envelope:** is an envelope that contains the invitation and all enclosures. It does not have gum on the flap and may have the name of the invitee on the front. Just as its name indicates, the Inside Envelope is placed in a larger outside envelope that is addressed and mailed.
- **Wedding Menus:** Wedding Menus are optional, but add elegance and are a nice touch. They are printed on high quality, standard size 8.5" x 11" paper. Menus are not placed in envelopes but at each place setting at a sit-down reception.
- **Open calendar** Invitations, note cards, etc. that open from bottom to top, calendar style.
- **Panel:** Each section of paper on a folded paper or card that is prepared for printing is called a panel. For example: a plain card is considered one panel. A paper or card that has been folded once has two facing panels. A paper or card that has two folds is said to have three panels. Etc...
- **Pearl stamping:** A pearl finish which is applied to paper with a stamping process, see foil stamping.
- **Pearlized:** is the description of a card or paper that has been pearl stamped.
- **Programs:** See the Wedding Program Section.

Glossary for Wedding Invitations and Stationery

Page 2 of 2

- **Reception Cards:** Reception Cards are used for guests who are not invited to the ceremony but are invited only to the reception. There are occasions where only a handful of close people are invited to the ceremony for various reasons. Some couples plan a destination wedding which is very costly and invite only their closest family and friends, so as not to burden their guests with high travel and lodging expenses. Others, especially re-marrying or December couples want only their immediate family present at their nuptial ceremony. Still others have friends and family in different locations and choose to have a reception at each. These cards are also perfect for receptions in celebration of special anniversaries, the most common 25th and 50th.
- **Response-R.S.V.P. Cards:** Response R.S.V.P. cards, are postcard-sized and should match or coordinate with the invitation. A Response card is placed in the same envelope with the invitation and with a stamped return envelope that is addressed to the person in charge of taking the attendance count.
- **Score:** To indent the sheet on the spot where it will be folded.
- **Scoring:** This is a process that prepares card stock weight paper to be folded evenly and without cracking.
- **Self mailer:** A sheet of cover stock with several scores. The same sheet is used as the invitation and as the mailer. The front panel is for mailing address and postage. A seal is used to close the flap.
- **Short Fold:** A sheet of paper that is not folded in the center but forms a shorter front panel and a longer back panel
- **Smoke Emboss:** Tinted foil is used with the embossing process. This adds a light transparent color to the embossed area, giving it a smoky or foggy look that adds more definition to the embossing.
- **Translucent:** A sheet of paper that is smooth and slightly transparent, sometimes cloudy. It is used as an insert to print on, or a wrap around on an invitation. Some refer to it as a parchment paper. Also available as envelopes in many sizes.
- **Vellum** A traditional finish used for social and wedding invitations.
- **Z-Fold** A sheet with several scores, that creates an accordion fold.
- **3-Fold:** A card that has a left, middle and a right panel. When fully opened, the left and right panels are folded inward on to the center panel.
- **Zip:** Every address is assigned a zip code. Unless you are absolutely sure of the complete address, go to www.usps.com and do a search in their **Zip+4 Lookup**. This will provide you with details such as full zip code, and whether the address is an Avenue, Blvd, Circle, Drive, Lane, Road, Street, etc.

About Thank You Notes:

Mail Thank You hand written notes to attending guests, immediately following each celebration held in honor of your upcoming wedding. Mail Thank You notes to your wedding guests after you return from your honeymoon but within 3 months from your wedding day.

Mail a hand written Thank You note to every guest or family even if you do not know them. Mail a Thank You note to each of your wedding attendants and everyone who helped or otherwise contributed to your special day.

Personalize each note by thanking the guest(s) for their specific gift and if applicable; how you plan to use or how you will enjoy it.

Bride's Name: _____ Groom's Name: _____ Wedding Date: _____

Invitations and Wedding Stationery

| Stationery item | Quantity ordered | Print our own | Pre-printed | Cost per 50, 100 Or Kit | Total Cost |
|--|------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Engagement Announcements and envelopes | | | | \$ | \$ |
| Save the date cards and envelopes | | | | \$ | \$ |
| Engagement gifts Thank You notes and envelopes | | | | \$ | \$ |
| Invitations for all events including Parties, Rehearsal dinner and others | | | | | |
| Invitations Formal without envelopes | | | | \$ | \$ |
| Envelopes Inner – lined | | | | \$ | \$ |
| Envelopes Outer – un-lined | | | | \$ | \$ |
| Invitations Formal with 2 envelopes | | | | \$ | \$ |
| Invitations Formal with 1 envelope | | | | \$ | \$ |
| Invitations Informal with 1 envelope | | | | \$ | \$ |
| Invitations Informal folded no envelopes | | | | \$ | \$ |
| More stationery, addressing, shipping needs, favors and others | | | | | |
| Reception Enclosure cards | | | | \$ | \$ |
| Response cards / Note cards and envelopes | | | | \$ | \$ |
| Travel and Hotel information for family, wedding party and out of town guests | | | | \$ | \$ |
| Maps / direction cards to Ceremony | | | | \$ | \$ |
| Maps / direction cards to Reception | | | | \$ | \$ |
| Shower gifts Thank You notes and envelopes | | | | \$ | \$ |
| Wedding programs | | | | \$ | \$ |
| RESERVED Pew cards for family | | | | \$ | \$ |
| Place cards for guest table assignments | | | | \$ | \$ |
| Menu | | | | \$ | \$ |
| Printed napkins | | | | \$ | \$ |
| Printed ribbons | | | | \$ | \$ |
| Thank you notes | | | | \$ | \$ |
| Addressing – Calligraphy* | | | | \$ | \$ |
| Address labels | | | | \$ | \$ |
| Stamps | | | | \$ | \$ |
| Personal stationery | | | | | |
| New address cards | | | | | |
| Other | | | | \$ | \$ |
| Other | | | | \$ | \$ |
| TOTAL | | | | \$ | \$ |
| OUR BUDGET FOR STATIONERY | | | | \$ | \$ |
| \$ | | | | | |

Notes and Comments:

Bride's Name: _____ **Groom's Name:** _____ **Wedding Date:** _____

Invitations and Wedding Stationery Information

About Our INVITATIONS and RESPONSE CARDS

Invitations purchased from: _____ design style code: _____

Stock color: _____ stock number: _____ other details: _____

Response Cards from: _____ design style code: _____

Stock color: _____ stock number: _____ other details: _____

This is a gift from: _____

INVITATIONS and RESPONSE CARDS Options:

Size of Invitation: _____ Type of Paper: _____ Paper Color: _____ Paper Weight: _____

Flat Card: _____ Folded card: _____ Outer envelope plain: _____ Outer envelope Lined: _____

Inner envelope plain: _____ Inner envelope Lined: _____ Ribbon: _____ Tissue Paper: _____

Font: _____ Lettering style (raised, flat etc.): _____ Ink color: _____

Size of Response Cards: _____ Type of Paper: _____ Paper Color: _____ Paper Weight: _____

Flat Card: _____ Folded card: _____ Outer envelope plain: _____ Outer envelope Lined: _____

Font: _____ Lettering style (raised, flat etc.): _____ Ink color: _____

Return address printed on outer envelopes: _____ Return address printed on Response cards envelopes: _____

Printing Method:

On a Computer Printer: _____ Engraved: _____ Letterpress: _____ or Thermography: _____

Other Stationery Items:

Items: _____

purchased from: _____ design style: _____

Stock color: _____ Stock number: _____ Other details: _____

The _____ is a gift from: _____

Calligraphy Options:

Envelopes: Lettering style: _____ Ink color: _____ Other: _____

Place cards: Lettering style: _____ Ink color: _____ Other: _____

Wedding Invitation Wording Etiquette

Invitations are the first contact with guests who are invited to your wedding and wedding related celebrations. Each invitation conveys more than names, date, time and location. Think of your invitations as the vehicle to inform about the hosts, the theme, the degree of formality, the wedding colors and more.

Various aspects of the wedding determine the wording on the wedding invitations and invitations to other celebrations relating to your big day, such as the Engagement and Shower parties, Rehearsal dinner etc.

1. The hosts do the inviting and the invitation should be worded to reflect it.
 - If the parents of the bride, groom or both pay the majority of the expenses, then they are the hosts.
 - If the bride and groom pay for the wedding then they are the hosts.
 - If the bride and groom as well as their parents pay for the wedding then they are the hosts.
 - If the bride and – or groom have children they should be included in the invitation.
 - If the bride and – or groom's children pay for the wedding, then they are the hosts.
 - If divorced parents invite, their name should be on separate lines with an AND between them.
 - If the wedding is hosted by others (uncles, aunts, friends etc.) they do the inviting.
 - A formal wedding invitation, calls for everything to be spelled out. Instead of January 1, 2010 the date should be January first on one line and Two thousand and ten on the following line. A common mistake in print-your-own wedding stationery is capitalizing the first word of every line; many word-processing programs will automatically capitalize the first letter even if you type it small case, but if you go back and correct it, the program will not attempt to over-ride.
2. If you have a theme wedding incorporate it into the invitation in text and - or graphics.
3. If you plan a destination wedding, elopement or a small private ceremony, your invitation should indicate that. Invite guests to a reception to be held in celebration of your marriage.
4. Choose invitations that suggest how formal or how casual your wedding celebration will be. For example; If you plan a black tie event send very formal folded invitations and add at the bottom that it will be a black tie. If you plan a casual celebration use a panel invitation.
 - All the add-on items are optional. Only the Invitation, and if you want to have a head count, the response card are mandatory.
 - Adding information to your invitations offers you the most appropriate way to ensure proper communications with your guests.
 - Do not use abbreviations, other than Mr. and Mrs., Sr. and Jr., especially if yours are formal invitations.
 - When sending your invitations, **do not** request or even suggest in a poem or otherwise monetary gifts. Your wedding is not a money making proposition and gifts are not the price of admission. It goes against all wedding etiquettes. In fact, some guests may find it offensive and may choose not attend your special celebration.

Bride's Name: _____ **Groom's Name:** _____ **Wedding Date:** _____

Standard Wedding Invitation Wording

Parents of the Bride (If groom say son and reverse order) Hosting

Mr. and Mrs. Name) _____
request the honor of your presence **OR** request the pleasure of your company
at the marriage of their daughter

Bride: _____

To

Groom: _____

On

Date Month: _____

Year spelled in words: _____

Time spelled in words: _____ in the time of day: _____

At - Location: _____

Address: _____

May add attire options, Reception follows information and – or other important notes.

Parents of the Bride and Parents of the Groom Hosting

Parents of the Bride: _____

Together with

Parents of the Groom: _____

Invite you to the wedding of their children **OR** invite you to share and celebrate at the marriage of their children
OR invite you to share in their joy at the marriage of their children

Bride: _____

To

Groom: _____

On

Date Month: _____

Year spelled in words: _____

Time spelled in words: _____ in the time of day: _____

At - Location: _____

Address: _____

Bride's Name: _____ Groom's Name: _____ Wedding Date: _____

Standard Wedding Invitation Wording The Couple is Hosting

Bride: _____

And

Groom: _____

Invite you to their wedding **OR** Invite you to share and celebrate at their wedding **Or** invite you to share in their joy
at their wedding

On

Date Month: _____

Year spelled in words: _____

Time spelled in words: _____ in the time of day: _____

At - Location: _____

Address: _____

May add attire, Reception follows and – or other important notes.

OR Come Celebrate with us, **OR** Come Share in our Joy

As We

Bride: _____

And

Groom: _____

Exchange our marriage vows **OR** Tie the knot **Or** Begin our married Life **Or** Become Husband and Wife

On

Date Month: _____

Year spelled in words: _____

Time spelled in words: _____ in the time of day: _____

At - Location: _____

Address: _____

May add attire options, Reception follows information and – or other important notes.

For original wedding invitation rhymes by Nily Glaser, go to:
<http://www.2.a-weddingday.com/weddings/wordingweddinginvitations.html>

Bride's Name: _____ **Groom's Name:** _____ **Wedding Date:** _____

Wedding Invitation Wording for a Family Wedding

Bride: _____

And

Groom: _____

Together with their children: _____

Invite you to share in their joy and excitement as they become a family

On

Date Month: _____

Year spelled in words: _____

Time spelled in words: _____ in the time of day: _____

At - Location: _____

Address: _____

May add attire, Reception follows and – or other important notes.

OR

Come Celebrate with us, **OR** Come Share in our Joy

As We

Bride: _____

And

Groom: _____

Together with our children: _____

Begin our Life as a family **Or** Become a family

On

Date Month: _____

Year spelled in words: _____

Time spelled in words: _____ in the time of day: _____

At - Location: _____

Address: _____

Bride's Name: _____ Groom's Name: _____ Wedding Date: _____

Wedding Invitation Wording Family Wedding

Bride: _____

And

Groom: _____

Together with their children: _____

Invite you to share in their joy and excitement as they become a family

On

Date Month: _____

Year spelled in words: _____

Time spelled in words: _____ in the time of day: _____

At - Location: _____

Address: _____

May add attire, Reception follows and – or other important notes.

OR Come Celebrate with us, **OR** Come Share in our Joy

As We

Bride: _____

And

Groom: _____

Together with our children: _____

Begin our Life as a family **Or** Become a family

On

Date Month: _____

Year spelled in words: _____

Time spelled in words: _____ in the time of day: _____

At - Location: _____

Address: _____

May add attire options, Reception follows information and – or other important notes.

Bride's Name: _____ Groom's Name: _____ Wedding Date: _____

Traditional Wedding Response Card Wording

Please respond on or before

Date: _____

M _____

Will / will not attend

Number of people **OR** number of adults Number of children

Choice of Entry if applicable Beef ___ Chicken ___ Fish ___ Pasta ___ etc...

Place Card Wording

Name; _____

Date: _____

Table number: _____ OR

Name of Table _____

Wording For personalized favors

Thank you for sharing in our happiness

OR

Thank you for sharing our special day

Bride and groom _____

Date: _____

For additional wording ideas go to:

<http://www.2.a-weddingday.com/weddings/invitations.html>

Notes and Comments:

Bride's Name: _____ **Groom's Name:** _____ **Wedding Date:** _____

About the 4 Page Wedding Program

The wedding program identifies the members of the Wedding Party, the parents, and who's going to perform the ceremony. It also lets everyone know the progress of the ceremony, as well as if applicable, who contributes singing and instrument playing and what music will be played.

The most popular wedding programs are printed on standard size 8.5" x 11" paper. It can be printed in booklet form on one sheet of paper printed on both sides in landscape layout. After printing, the page can be folded in half to create a 5.5" x 8.5" 4 page booklet. If you choose heavy stock paper, be sure that it has been scored, that is pre-prepared for folding. Another option is to use two sheets, each printed on one side, folded in half to 5.5" x 8.5", and secured by either a staple in the middle, or a ribbon that is threaded through to form a booklet. This is a very inexpensive and elegant treatment, and because both sheets are only printed on one side, may be easier to do.

Wedding Programs are handed out to your guests prior to the ceremony by the ushers who escort them to their seats. If you want to be less formal, place the programs on a table at the entrance next to the guest book. Ask either one of your ushers or your older child(ren) if either of you have any, to point your guests to the table. Programs can also be placed at the end of each row of seats, so your guests can help themselves.

An 8 1/2 X 11 inch sheet folded in half is perfect. For a one-of-a-kind personalized program:

- Design it yourselves,
- Embellish with monograms, graphics, a photo, logos, and – or family crests,
- Choose your favorite font and color and print it on your computer printer.
- Since guests will make it a keepsake, create a good looking informative wedding program.

On the front cover, list the bride and groom's full names, wedding date, time and location of the ceremony. A photograph or a favorite design will enhance it.

If you have room, you may wish to add one or a few of the following:

- Special thank you messages to parents, wedding party and guests,
- Meaningful quotes,
- Tribute to honor loved ones who have passed away,
- Directions to the reception.

Bride's Name: _____ Groom's Name: _____ Wedding Date: _____

A 4 Page Wedding Program

Page 1 - Top Cover

The Wedding Ceremony of

Bride _____

**And
Groom** _____

Date _____

Time _____

Location _____

City and State _____

Bride's Name: _____ **Groom's Name:** _____ **Wedding Date:** _____

Page 2 - inside Top Cover

Our Wedding Ceremony Details

Officiating: _____

Pianist/organist: _____

Soloist: _____

Prelude: _____

Processional: _____

Greetings: _____

Readings: _____

Vows: _____

Unity Candle: _____

Presentation of gifts: _____

Traditional, customary, religious ceremonies within the marriage ceremony:

Page 3 – inside Back Cover

Introductions

Introducing Our Children

Introducing Our Parents, Grandparents and other Family Members

Introducing Our Wedding Party by Name and Relations

Maid of Honor: _____

Bridesmaids: _____

Junior Bridesmaids: _____

Flower Girl(s): _____

Best Man: _____

Groomsmen: _____

Junior Groomsmen: _____

Ring Bearer: _____

Ushers: _____

Helpers: _____

Bride's Name: _____ **Groom's Name:** _____ **Wedding Date:** _____

Page 4 – Back Cover
Religious and Cultural Ceremony Rituals Performed at Our Wedding,
and their Meanings
Or
About Our Wedding Theme
OR
The order of our ceremony

Bottom of page 4:

Please stand until after the ushers escort our parents and grandparents out of the ceremony.

A Sample of a Wedding Ceremony and the Order of the Service

You may wish to include the ceremony order in your wedding program so that your guests will be able to follow.

A wedding ceremony is a solemn occasion. Yours should be planned to be most meaningful to the two of you and if you have children to the children too.

Following are a few elements contained in most wedding ceremonies:

1. The Wedding Processional is when the bridal party, parents and bride and groom enter the ceremony site. The order often depends on the religion or heritage and preference of the couple.
2. Music. Usually classical or instrumental.
3. The officiant welcomes your guests.
4. It is followed by a prayer or a reading. The reading can be about love, relationships, marriages, family or all of them. It can be a quoted from the Bible, poetry, literature or something written by a friend or family member. Whatever its essence and its form, it is most important that the reading should be of something close to your hearts. This said, the reading can, but does not have to be solemn. A ceremony reading can be serious, sentimental and even humorous.
5. The officiant continues by providing the definition of marriage in general, and will probably talk about the seriousness of the solemn vow the two of you are about to exchange, and about your new life together as a husband and wife or family.
6. Attendants or witnesses may be called to sign the marriage license and/or wedding certificate.
7. You follow by exchanging wedding vows. Usually the order is: Groom to Bride, Bride to Groom, and if there are children Groom to Children, Bride to children. It is advisable NOT to expect vows from the children to the Bride and Groom. However, if the children are so inclined, they should be welcome to present their vows.
8. Second reading, a song or a prayer.
9. The Ring ceremony followed by an exchange of the first gift from husband to wife and wife to husband. In a family wedding, gifts (usually jewelry) from both to the children.
10. Optional are the Unity Candle ceremony, Tying the Knot ceremony, the Sand ceremony The Wine Ceremony, the Rose ceremony etc.
11. A blessing, benediction, or officiant's sanction of the marriage. In a family wedding the officiant welcomes the children to the newly created family. A declaration of marriage is when the officiant says something like "By the power vested in me by the State of _____, I now pronounce you husband and wife" "You may now kiss the bride" or "you may now kiss each other."
12. Your first kiss as a married couple. In a family wedding proceed with kissing and hugging the children.
13. Now comes the Introduction of newlyweds, when the officiant presents Mr. and Mrs. _____" In a family wedding the officiant presents the new family of Mr. and Mrs. _____ and (children's first names)" It is expected that at this moment the guests stand and applaud. They stay standing during the recessional, when Bride and Groom followed by family and wedding party leave the ceremony location.

Bride's Name: _____ **Groom's Name:** _____ **Wedding Date:** _____

Our Invitations and Stationery