

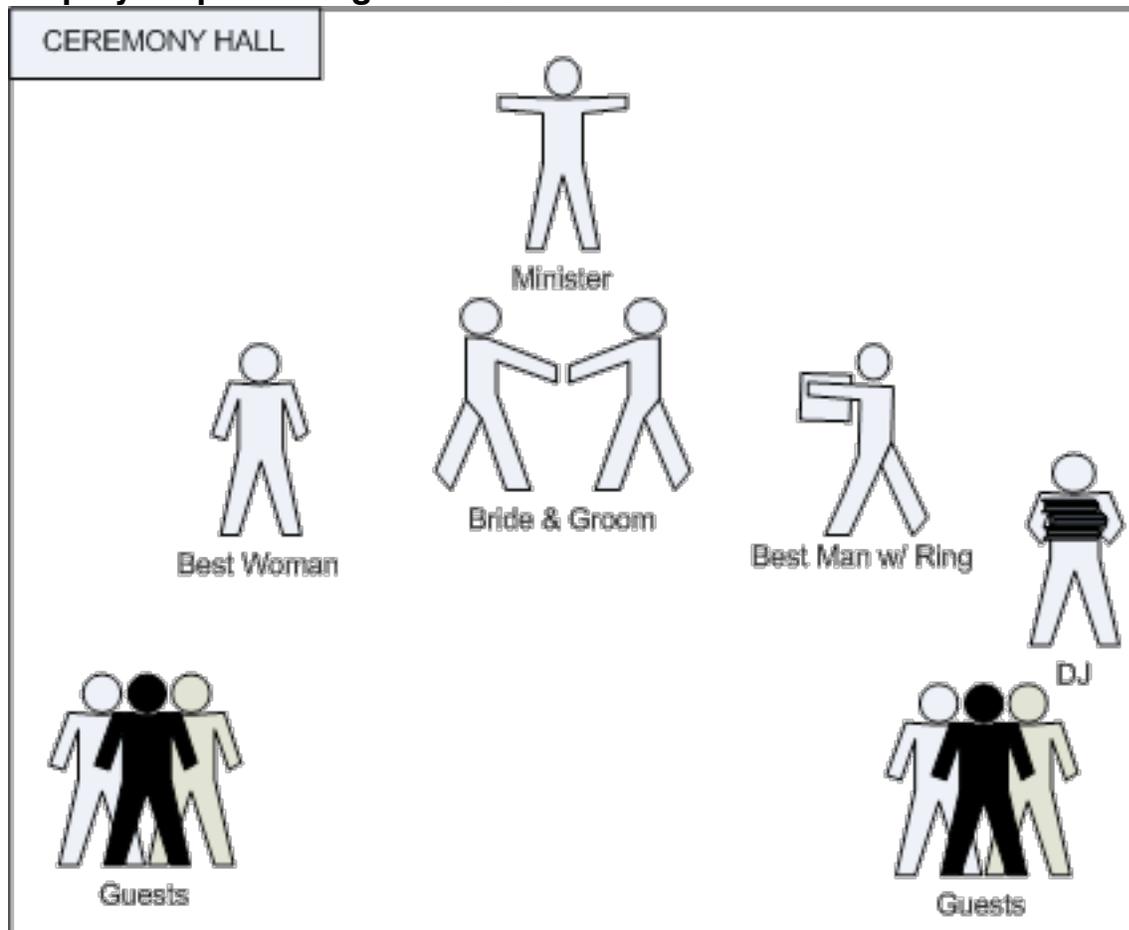
## Wedding Rehearsals

Most weddings do not require a rehearsal! However, if you feel nervous about the whole thing or the bridal party is simply really, really large then you might want to consider having a wedding rehearsal. There is nothing magic about rehearsals and you can coordinate them yourself, unless you would rather have the minister there with you. This page will tell you all you need to **know about a wedding rehearsal** so you can do it yourself and save some money. Here's what you need to do the rehearsal yourself.

### Wedding Rehearsal Objectives

1. Bridal party understands what to do and where to go
2. Bridal party knows what time you need them
3. Ring bearer(s) know where to get the ring from and when
4. Discuss contingencies regarding flower girls, ring bearers, late people

### Step by Step Wedding Rehearsal



1. Work Backwards: start at the "altar" - position your party as you want them

in the place where the wedding ceremony will take occur - the ceremony *destination*. The bride will be on the left side as you enter the room. the maid of honor is next to her, either to the side, or side and slightly closer to the audience. Ditto for groomsmen on the right side. You may want to arrange them by height to obtain a pleasant visual effect - either from shorter to taller or backwards.

2. Decide (in your mind) whether you want the bridal party to enter as couples or one at a time. You make the rules, both ways work - if it is a really large party get them to come in together, otherwise it does not much matter so go with whatever you like.

3. Next tell them to stay there and go to the place from where you will want them to start walking towards the destination, at the back of the room. Ask the best man and maid of honor to join you. Then the next couple, and on, and on. Arrange them so that the first people to enter the room are those who will be closest to the bride and groom at the destination.

4. Between the best man / maid of honor couple will be flower girls and ring bearers, if any. Don't bother telling little kids when to start walking (they will forget so you will do it again anyway) but do tell them what to do - "walk up to the minister and then go to your mommy; throw flower petals all along the way". Most important is to tell the kids' parents NOW that, should the kids get lost / frazzled / scared on the isle, the parents should (in the middle of the wedding ceremony) get up or break formation and go to their kids, and take them to wherever they need to take them so that the children are ok. Of course, little kids will take their time and they are cute when they do, but some get shy and stop in the middle and cry. Tell their parents to simply go and take care of the kid if the kid gets spooked, as many do! Also, tell the parent to take the kids to the back or away if they start crying. It may sound like the right thing to do to stay there with the child in the middle of the ceremony, but it is no fun listening to kids crying for the whole duration of *your* wedding and never hearing anything your or your beloved said. So be practical - just like you would be at a theater play. If the crying children are yours... well, you know best.

5. Now discuss the entrance. The groom may enter in with me and the best man and groomsmen. If the groomsmen are entering with the corresponding bridesmaid, then the groom could still enter with me and the best man.

6. The bride may be brought in by both her parents otherwise, dad should bring her or she can even come alone. I've even had two fathers bring a bride - natural and step father, and it was nice.

7. So imagine the following entrance: start pre-processional song, something like [Cannon in D](#) if you want to be traditional or anything you like otherwise.

Tell the groom, or whoever is first to start moving - during the ceremony they will have to signal with the DJ (or the minister, and the minister will signal the DJ) so that music starts the same time. When the first walker get to the middle of the isle (length-wise) have the second walker start. That way the distance between the them will be roughly the same. When the flower girl / ring bearer is ready to start walking (last groomsman / bridesmaid gets half way down the isle) have the DJ start the processional. Processional can be something happy and proud. The secret is that most anything works, if you like it! Wait for the flower girl to get to the front and then start.

8. At this point the minister will have folks stand up for **you**. Smile! Then walk to the front. About 4 feet in front of the groom, hug and kiss dad and let the two men shake hands. Then take your place facing the groom so that the minister can see your left side and the audience the right side.

9. If you have readers during the ceremony (recommended) tell them they will be introduced by the minister and tell them where to go to read (stay in place or come to the front) and which way to face (bride and groom, audience, across).

10. If you have other activities, talk about who would go where and would do what. Not much to rehearse, a good minister will guide you during the ceremony.

11. Now you are ready to exit. You will be introduced and the music starts. The bridal party will walk out in reverse order from what they came in like. Best man and maid of honor first, parents last.

12. Then stop wherever you want to have the receiving line and instruct the bridal party to line up there with you in any order you wish.

Keep in mind receiving lines will slow you down on starting any photographs and most everyone simply mingles with the guests at the appropriate time during the reception.