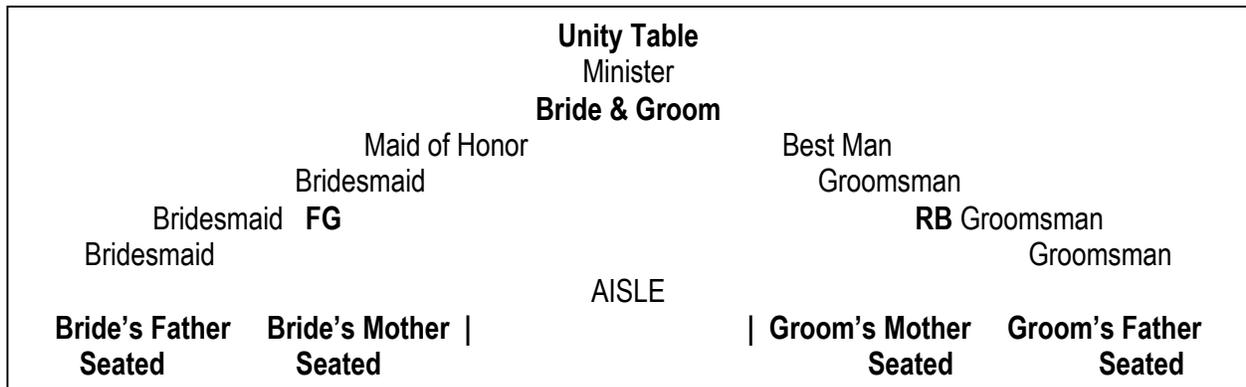


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Simple as A.B.C. **Worry-Free** Wedding Ceremony Rehearsal Guide

A. Begin by having the wedding party stand & parents sit in the spot they will occupy during the ceremony. Grandparents can be seated next to the parents or in the next row back. Stepparents are usually seated prior to the ceremony in the second row back from the front, and joined by their respective spouse.

Arrange your attendants in any order that you like. When in place, the entire wedding party will always face the bride and groom. After the bride is presented, the bride and groom will face the minister, arm in arm, bride holding her bouquet for the first few minutes of the ceremony (to accommodate photography). Everything from asking, "Who brings this woman to be married?" to "You may kiss your bride" will be clearly understood without worry!



B. Next, practice leaving the ceremony (the recessional). Decide if the wedding party will form a receiving line or assemble in a pre-designated location for more photos. The recessional starts with the bride & groom (exiting completely alone), followed by the flower girl/ring bearer, maid of honor & best man, and each remaining couple in order. After the wedding party exits, spouses or ushers may escort the mothers and grandmothers (bride's first).

C. Now that everyone knows where to stand or sit during the ceremony, practice coming in to the ceremony, (the processional). Write the names in the order you want on a list and bring it to the rehearsal. Here's a *suggested* order:

1. Stepmothers and other females with ushers or spouses
2. Grandmothers with ushers, followed by spouse
3. Groom's mother with an usher or spouse
4. Bride's mother with usher or spouse
5. Minister, groom enter from right side with best man and groomsmen (if not escorting bridesmaids in)
6. Bridesmaid standing far left begins, followed by the next lady in, etc. (with or without groomsmen)
7. Maid of Honor or Matron of Honor (with or without best man)
8. Ring bearer & flower girl (together or separate)
9. Bride and her father (traditionally) – the gentleman will escort the bride with his left elbow

When the music stops the minister will welcome the guests and ask, "Who brings this woman to be married to this man?" Father may answer, "Her mother and I" or any planned response. It's nice to have the groom and father shake hands after Dad answers. Decide if a wedding veil is to be lifted or if the father will give the bride a kiss on the cheek. As the father and guests are seated, the groom takes the exact spot where the father was standing, left elbow to the bride.

Remember, don't stress! The minister will talk and guide you through the entire ceremony!