

*[Note: The outline below is a template of a general script layout that contains many of the “common” items I’ve seen used at most wedding ceremonies. Keep in mind that you can always re-order the line items in the list below, delete ones you don’t want to use, or introduce new line items if you so choose. Be aware that every item listed is optional except for **VIII - Marriage Vows**, which are required by the State of Minnesota.]*

I. Prelude Music

- This is generally when the ushering of guests in to the ceremony area occurs

II. Processional Music

- Often, the wedding party processes into the ceremony area at this time

III. Bridal Entrance / Couple Entrance

- In M-F weddings, this is when the bride enters the ceremony area, often escorted. Other options include having the couple enter together, or one after another, etc.

IV. Welcome Words

- The officiant welcomes the guests and sometimes offers words about the occasion.

V. Reading(s)

- One or more readings such as a poem, verse, etc., can be offered at this time. Often, a person other than the officiant (friend, relative, etc.) is chosen for this task.

VI. Special Music

- If desired, this is often a point where special music might be inserted into the ceremony. Note that special music can be placed anywhere in the ceremony, and that you might want to have several special music selections.

VII. Officiant Message

- If a short talk or homily is requested, this is typically where it occurs in the ceremony.

VIII. Marriage Vows

- This is the only part of the ceremony which is actually required. The state of MN mandates that both parties give a public assent to the marriage into which they are entering.

IX. Exchange of Rings

- It is customary to follow the vows with an exchange of rings (or other symbol of the marriage).

X. Marriage Ritual (with or without special music)

- Sometimes couples will choose to perform a ritual during their ceremony, such as a unity candle or intermixing of sand or something of that sort.

XI. Pronouncement of Marriage

- The officiant will declare that the couple is now legally and officially married. Once the pronouncement is made, you can be certain that loud applause will follow!

XII. Recessional Music

- Music typically plays as the newly-married couple and the wedding party depart from the ceremony area (but not always).

Some important thoughts...

YOU as a couple get to design your ceremony—this template above is just an example of a typical order of things. This sample script is just that: a sample! It is most definitely not set in stone! So, for example...

- If you don't want any readings, no problem! In the list above, we would just have Roman numeral 'V' removed from the script!

- If you would like to have three different special music selections, no problem! We can easily add more items to the overall script anywhere you choose.
- If you want to rearrange the order of the items above, no problem! Rearrange to your heart's content!
- If you have chosen a religious wedding ceremony, prayers and blessings can easily be added to the list of items.
- The possibilities are literally endless!!!

Again, this is your big day, and Mike will work with you to get everything just the way you want it, with the exact wording you would like to have used during the ceremony. Before your wedding day, you will have a copy of the final script that Mike will be using, so there won't be any "surprises" during the actual ceremony..

One of the best places to get ideas for building your wedding script is to use Google. If you search for terms like "wedding ceremonies" or "marriage liturgies" or the like, you will find dozens (if not hundreds) of Internet sites with all kinds of interesting possibilities. Once you find various pieces to use (or come up with your own, or perhaps have Mike write something specifically for you), you simply need to get them to Mike via email and he will assemble them into a script. Mike will send you the tentative script to review and edit as many times as necessary until we get it "just right".