

CEREMONIES WITHIN THE WEDDING CEREMONY

Unity Candle Ceremony - A symbolic ceremony that has the bride and groom light a single candle representing their willingness to walk life's pathways together as one.

Blending of the Sands Ceremony - This ceremony can be a beautiful and meaningful alternative to the "Unity Candle" ceremony. The pouring of two different colored sands together is used to symbolize the joining of the bride and groom or the "joining of their families."

Rose Ceremony - In this brief ceremony the bride and groom present each other with their first gift as wife and husband; a red rose bud (a symbol of Love). There are two versions of the Rose Ceremony, one short and a longer one. The longer version only adds about 3 minutes to the ceremony.

Honor Your Mother - Here is an honorable tribute that will fill your mother and mother-in-laws' hearts with joy and pride. Plus a very subtle way to honor close family members who have passed on and the colors of roses and their special meanings.

Blended Family Ceremony - When the bride and/or groom have children, it is appropriate for the children to be included into the wedding ceremony. Children will accept a parent's remarriage more readily when they feel included in the wedding ceremony. Pouring different colored sands together is another way to symbolize the joining of the bride and groom and their family together. The children love this version. See the [Blending of the Sands Ceremony](#).

The Loving Cup Ceremony - The purpose of the Loving Cup ceremony is for the bride and groom to share their first drink together as wife and husband and to show the coming together of two families. Special words can be added to include the Bride and Groom's parents (and friends) as part of this ceremony.

The Lasso Ceremony - This tradition is usually associated with Hispanic and Filipino families. Lasso (sometimes called, "lazo") or rope is placed around the bride and groom's shoulders after they have exchanged their vows to symbolize their everlasting union.

The Handfasting Ceremony - This Celtic tradition of Handfasting is an ancient commitment ceremony. It is the predecessor to the modern wedding ceremony.

The Gold Coins Ceremony - The custom of the giving of wedding coins originated in Spain. Thirteen gold coins (arras) are given to the bride by the bridegroom, signifying his willingness to support her.

The 7 Steps (or Blessings) Ceremony - The Hindu ceremony, a rite known as "samskara," has several components and it is quite beautiful. It includes 7 Sanskrit blessings as the bride and groom walk 7 times around a table as the minister recites the 7 blessings.

The Breaking of the Glass Ceremony - The breaking of the glass serves as a separation between the awe of the ceremony and the reception celebration that will follow. Although this ceremony is traditionally of Jewish origin, many couples choose to incorporate it into traditional and non-traditional ceremonies.

The Love Letter & Wine Box Ceremony - Here's an idea that will certainly grab the attention of the guests, add some pizzazz to your ceremony and incorporate a new twist into your celebration.

The Circling Ceremony - In the Jewish tradition, after the bride and groom first enter the huppah (a canopy traditionally used in Jewish weddings), or the bride walks to the alter escorted by her father, the bride circles the groom three or seven times.

The Butterfly Release Ceremony - The butterfly symbolizes new beginnings and rebirths. What better way to celebrate the beginning of a new life together than with the releasing of butterflies at your wedding.

White Doves Release Ceremony - As a true symbol of Love, the White Dove chooses its mate for life, therefore they are a very fitting and final addition to any wedding. They create a magical atmosphere as they circle the skies before leaving on their new journey together.

Jumping the Broom Ceremony - The Jumping the Broom Ceremony is an African American tradition. It signifies their entrance into a new life and their creation of a new family by symbolically "sweeping away" their former single lives, former problems and concerns, and jumping over the broom to enter upon a new adventure as wife and husband.

The Last Kiss Before the First Kiss - Here's a clever idea to celebrate a special moment for the bride and groom and their mothers during the ceremony. In the wedding ceremony just before the "first kiss" as wife and husband, the minister calls the mothers of the bride and groom forward. Read more. . .

The Oathing Stone Ceremony - Embrace the old European tradition to add a meaningful highlight to your wedding ceremony. The Oathing Stone is an old Scottish tradition where the Bride and Groom place their hands upon a stone while saying their wedding vows.

The Cord of Three Strands Ceremony - The Cord of Three Strands ceremony (often called "God's Knot" or the Unity Braid Ceremony) symbolizes the joining of one man, one woman, and God into a marriage relationship. It adds a truly unique element to your ceremony that friends and family will remember. The cord of three strands ceremony is a great addition to any wedding ceremony.

The Hand Blessing Ceremony - In this Ceremony, hands are held palms-up in the hands of the other and a blessing is read as a reminder of what these hands mean to your relationship with each other.

Godparents Celebration Ceremony with Sand - It is a great honor when friends ask you to be a Godparent (aka, mentor, supporting adult, guideparent or guardian) and is an awesome responsibility and signals that they really trust you to look out for their child if something should happen to them.