

# Announcements

## Do you need an Announcement?

At most weddings an Announcement isn't necessary. The guests are expecting to greet you in a receiving line at the back of the room, or on the way out. The Ushers should be at the front as the last of the wedding party is leaving. When the guests see the Ushers, they know they will be releasing them row-by-row.

## If you do need an Announcement:

### What to say in an Announcement:

### Questions the Guests may have.

What happens next?

Where do the Guests go now?

Is there a receiving line? – if so where?

If no receiving line:

When will the Bride and Groom greet their Guests?

When is dinner served and/or hors d'oeuvres and cocktails?

Judge Armstrong can give an Announcement right after the wedding party has left. Usually this will tell the guests when and where the Bride and Groom will greet them and/or what is coming next.

Think about how you want to release the guests. Will there be ushers to release them row-by-row? Will you return to release the guests and greet them row-by-row? Will the ushers escort the guests out – just like they were escorted in to their seats? This is almost never done and takes a lot of time.

Will everyone stand up at once and start for the door? Will there be a mad scramble, thus leaving your family - who are seated at the front - at the end of the line? This has happened.

Will there be a frantic rush like a fire in a crowded theater - or a European soccer game where dozens are stomped to death in the ensuing panic? Will women and children be screaming? Will the male guests shoot their automatic rifles into the air in celebration - thus bringing down the ceiling of the room? Of course that won't happen, but think about how you want to handle this last part of the ceremony before the joyous guests get out of hand.

**How do the guests leave the ceremony site? What do they do next?**

### **Bubbles**

What about Bubbles? They're not just for bathtubs and backyards anymore. If you decide to give out bubble bottles to the guests, you need to remind them that with bubble bottles comes great responsibility. An Announcement should be given right after the Kiss, or Benediction, and just before the Introduction of the Couple.

#### **Announcement - Bubbles**

Please get your bubbles ready to greet the new couple.

*Pause until the Guests are ready.*

#### **Introduction of the Couple**

*The Bride and Groom turn to face the guests.*

I am happy to present for the first time, John and Mary, husband and wife.

*The Guests shower the New Couple with bubbles.*

### **Group Photographs**

**Judge Tom Armstrong / 651-773-4092 / [Tom@tgarmstrong.com](mailto:Tom@tgarmstrong.com)**

Sometimes couples want a group picture immediately after the ceremony. Then the Bride and Groom remain at the front and the guests are instructed to come forward to group together for a photo. This only works at weddings with a smaller number of guests.

### **Ushers Escorting the Guests Out**

This is the reverse of formal seating by the ushers. Each lady is escorted with her husband, friend, family following. This is rarely done anymore (*Tom hasn't seen this in years*) and it takes time. Releasing guests row-by-row works much smoother and is what your guests expect.

### **Before the Ceremony:**

*This is rarely given, but some couples have asked Tom to make similar announcements.*

### **Before Announcement – 1. - Humorous - Silence Cellphones**

#### **Announcement**

**To Guests:** Please silence all cell phones. Any phones that ring during the ceremony will be collected afterward and donated to Grm and Bde's favorite charity.

### **Before Announcement – 2. - Silence Cellphones**

**To Guests:** Welcome everyone, Grm and Bde are very happy to see you. Before we begin, they have asked that you please turn off all cell phones so you can be fully in the moment, and truly appreciate the reason we are celebrating today.

### **Before Announcement – 3. Unplug from Technology**

**To Guests:** Welcome. Before we begin the ceremony, Bde and Grm have requested that all cell phones and cameras be turned off so that we may unplug from technology and cherish the present moment fully.

**Before Announcement – 4. Feels with your hearts**

**Announcement Cell Phones**

Bde and Grm invite you to be truly present at this special time. Please, turn off your cell phones and put down your cameras. The photographer will capture how this moment *looks* - I encourage you to capture how it *feels* with your hearts, without the distraction of technology.

**At the Conclusion of the Ceremony:**

**Announcement – 1. – The Traditional Announcement**

**Announcement**

*After the Wedding party leaves.  
The Ushers come up and stand at the front.*

The ushers will release you row-by-row, starting with the front row. Bde and Grm will greet you in a receiving line as you leave the room.

**Announcement – 2. – No Receiving Line - Same Location**

**Announcement**

*After the Wedding party leaves.  
The Ushers come up and stand at the front.*

The ushers will release you row-by-row, starting with the front row. There will NOT be a formal receiving line. During the reception, the Bride and Groom will be circulating from table-to-table to greet you.

**Judge Tom Armstrong / 651-773-4092 / [Tom@tgarmstrong.com](mailto:Tom@tgarmstrong.com)**

### **Announcement – 3. – No Receiving Line – Social Hour Greeting**

#### **Announcement**

*After the Wedding party leaves.  
The Ushers come up and stand at the front.*

The ushers will release you row-by-row, starting with the front row. There will **NOT** be a formal receiving line. The Bride and Groom will be greeting you during the social hour before dinner. Please proceed to (*Room Location*) for hors d'oeuvres and drinks (*Or whatever will be the refreshments and appetizers*).

### **Announcement – 4. – No Receiving Line – Go to Reception Site**

#### **Announcement**

*After the Wedding party leaves.  
The Ushers come up and stand at the front.*

The ushers will release you row-by-row, starting with the front row. Please proceed to the reception at *Location*. Bde and Grm will be greeting you at the reception.

#### **NOTE:**

*The Bride and Groom will need to leave immediately to a waiting vehicle – or hide out until the guests leave. Once the Bride and Groom are spotted, a receiving line immediately begins. Use the Groomsmen to help the ushers in assisting the guests to leave the ceremony site.*

### **Announcement – 5. – The Bride and Groom will Return**

#### **Announcement**

*After the Wedding party leaves.*

**Judge Tom Armstrong / 651-773-4092 / [Tom@tgarmstrong.com](mailto:Tom@tgarmstrong.com)**

Please remain seated. Bde and Grm will return to greet you row-by-row.

**NOTE:**

*Some locations have a confined space at the entrance where you would normally greet guests. The Fort Snelling Chapel is an example. In the winter, or in the rain, a greeting line outside won't work so the couple comes back to the front and releases the guests row-by-row.*

**Announcement – 6.**

**The ceremony room needs to be cleared to set tables for the reception.**

**Announcement**

*After the Wedding party leaves.  
The Ushers come up and stand at the front.*

The ushers will release you row-by-row, starting with the front row. Bde and Grm will greet you in a receiving line as you leave the room. Please proceed (upstairs, downstairs – to the LOCATION of area) to the social hour for drinks and hors d'oeuvres. This room needs to be reset with tables for the reception.

**Announcement – 7. - Group Photographs – No Recessional**

**Announcement**

*The Bride and Groom stay at the front.*

Please join Grm and Bde up front so they can get a family picture. The first picture will be a group photo with everyone, then the second picture will be Grm, Bde and all of Grm's extended family, and then the third picture will be a photo of Grm, Bde and all of Bde's extended family.

**Announcement – 8.**

**Judge Tom Armstrong / 651-773-4092 / [Tom@tgarmstrong.com](mailto:Tom@tgarmstrong.com)**

## The Bride and Groom stay at the Front – No Recessional

### Announcement

*The Bride and Groom stay at the front.*

Grm and Bde will have their receiving line here at the front. Please come forward, row-by-row to greet them.

## Announcement – 9. - Como Park Conservatory Sunken Garden

### Announcement

*After the Wedding party leaves.*

Please come forward and follow the family out around the Garden. The Bride and Groom will be greeting you as you leave the Sunken Garden.

OR

Please come forward and follow the family out around the Garden. Then proceed to the reception at *Location*. The Bride and Groom will be greeting you at the reception.

### NOTE:

*The Bride and Groom will need to leave immediately to a waiting vehicle – or hide out until the guests leave. Once the Bride and Groom are spotted, a receiving line immediately begins. A white dress is not good camouflage – it can be seen through the foliage at the Como Conservatory. Use the Groomsmen to help the ushers in assisting the guests to leave the Conservatory.*

## Announcement – 10. – A Wedding on a Boat

### Announcement

*After the Wedding party leaves.*

**Judge Tom Armstrong / 651-773-4092 / [Tom@tgarmstrong.com](mailto:Tom@tgarmstrong.com)**

*The Ushers come up and stand at the front.*

The ushers will release you row-by-row, starting with the front row. Grm and Bde will be greeting you at the stern of this boat. OR on the lower deck.

## **Samples of Real Announcements**

### **A Steam Punk Wedding**

Please remain seated until Bde and Grm have left the building, they will make rounds at the reception. As you exit please follow them to the (*Location - 4 doors down xxx Street*) and join them for Punch, Pie, Music, and Dancing.

Please remember, if you have brought any Man-Crushing Robots, keep them in your vehicles until after the reception has ended. Thank you all again for joining us!

### **A Star Trek Wedding**

Grm, Emperor of the Universe, and his Consort for Life, Queen Bde, will be greeting you in a receiving line as you leave the Sunken Garden.

**So what's in your Announcement?**