

DIY Wedding Rehearsal Script

Run Your Own Processional Practice in 25 Minutes

No Coordinator? No Problem.

This script provides everything you need to run a smooth, professional wedding rehearsal without hiring a coordinator. Just follow the word-for-word instructions and you'll have your entire wedding party ready in under 30 minutes.

Processional
Visualize Your Ceremony

Before You Begin Checklist

Complete this checklist before starting the rehearsal to ensure a smooth practice session.

- Confirm all wedding party members are present

Tip: Do a head count. If someone is running late, start with who you have and catch them up.

- Have the processional order written out

Tip: List everyone in the order they'll walk. Use the Processional app for a visual reference!

- Know your ceremony songs (or hum placeholders)

Tip: You don't need the actual music - humming works fine for pacing practice.

- Bring this script

Tip: Having the exact words to say eliminates awkward pauses and confusion.

- Designate someone to cue music (or pretend)

Tip: This person will signal when each person should start walking.

- Set a time limit: 25 minutes for processional practice

Tip: Keeps everyone focused. You can always run it twice if time permits.

- Have the officiant present (or a stand-in)

Tip: They need to know where to stand and when to enter.

- Know where bridesmaids and groomsmen will stand

Tip: Left side? Right side? Verify with the couple before starting.

PRO TIP: If someone is missing, have another wedding party member walk their path so everyone else can practice their timing. Catch up the missing person when they arrive.

The Script: Gathering Phase

Start here. Gather everyone and set expectations for the rehearsal.

DIRECTOR SAYS: Opening

"Okay everyone, gather around! We're going to run through the processional - that's the walking-in part. This should take about 25 minutes. Here's how it works..."

Explain the Structure

DIRECTOR SAYS: Structure Overview

"The processional is simply everyone walking down the aisle in a specific order, one at a time or in pairs. I'll call out each person or group, and when you hear your name, you'll start walking. Sound good? Great, let's go over the order."

Read the Order

DIRECTOR SAYS: Order Introduction

"Here's our order for tomorrow. I'm going to read through it once so everyone knows when they go. Listen for your name... [READ YOUR PROCESSIONAL ORDER LIST HERE]"

Starting Positions

DIRECTOR SAYS: Position Assignment

"Now let's talk about where everyone starts. For the ceremony, you'll all gather [in the back/in the lobby/behind the doors] in order. First person in front, last person in back. The officiant will already be in position at the altar."

The Cue System

DIRECTOR SAYS: Cue Explanation

"Here's how you'll know when to go: [MUSIC PERSON'S NAME] will be controlling the music. When you hear the processional music start, that's the signal for [FIRST PERSON] to begin walking. After that, each person starts when there's about [8-15] seconds of space - I'll tap your shoulder or nod at you when it's your turn."

Walking Pace

DIRECTOR SAYS: Pace Demonstration

"Now, about how fast to walk - this is important. Watch me... [DEMONSTRATE WALKING]. See how slow that is? That's the pace. Think 'graceful' not 'in a hurry.' If you're walking with a partner, match their pace. You're aiming for about [15-50] seconds to reach the altar, depending on the aisle length."

Final Positions

DIRECTOR SAYS: End Position

"When you reach the altar, here's where you go: Bridesmaids, you'll line up on the [left/right]. Groomsmen, you're on the [left/right]. First person in stands closest to where the couple will stand, and everyone else fills in from there."

The Script: Walking Practice

Now run through the actual processional. Use these scripts for each role.

1. Officiant Positioning

DIRECTOR SAYS: To Officiant

"[OFFICIANT NAME], you'll be in place before anyone walks. Go ahead and take your position at the altar now. You'll stand right here, facing the guests. Tomorrow, you'll enter a few minutes before the processional starts so guests know we're about to begin."

2. Groom Entrance

DIRECTOR SAYS: To Groom

"[GROOM'S NAME], you have a few options. Some grooms walk in from a side door and wait at the altar. Others walk down the aisle first, either alone or with their parents. What would you like? [WAIT FOR ANSWER] Great, let's practice that now. Go to your starting position and when I signal, walk to your spot beside [OFFICIANT]."

3. Parents of the Couple

DIRECTOR SAYS: To Parents

"Parents, you're up next. [GROOM'S PARENTS], you'll walk down together and be seated in the front row on the [right/left]. [BRIDE'S MOTHER], you'll be seated just before the bride enters - you're the signal to guests that the bride is about to appear."

4. Wedding Party - Paired Option

DIRECTOR SAYS: Paired Processional

"For paired walking: [FIRST BRIDESMAID] and [FIRST GROOMSMAN], you'll walk together. The bridesmaid takes the groomsman's arm - left arm so his right hand is free. Walk side by side at the same pace. When you reach the front, separate - bridesmaid goes [left/right], groomsman goes [left/right]. Ready? Let's practice."

5. Wedding Party - Solo Option

DIRECTOR SAYS: Solo Processional

"For solo walking: Each person walks alone with even spacing between you. [FIRST PERSON], you start when the music begins. [SECOND PERSON], you start when [FIRST PERSON] is about a third of the way down the aisle. Everyone else follows with the same spacing. Let's try it."

6. Ring Bearer & Flower Girl

DIRECTOR SAYS: To Young Attendants

"[RING BEARER NAME] and [FLOWER GIRL NAME], you have the most important job! You walk right before the bride. [RING BEARER], hold the pillow with both hands, nice and steady. [FLOWER GIRL], scatter the petals gently as you walk - no need to throw them, just let them drop. If you get nervous, it's totally okay to hold [PARENT'S NAME]'s hand or walk straight to them in the front row. Let's practice once!"

Special Instructions for Young Attendants:

- Assign a trusted adult to sit at the front row to 'receive' them
- Practice 2-3 times so they feel confident
- Have a backup plan (parent walks with them if needed)
- Give them a 'job' to focus on rather than the crowd
- Promise a special treat after the ceremony for encouragement

7. Bride Entrance

DIRECTOR SAYS: To Bride (and Escort)

"[BRIDE'S NAME], this is your moment! The music will change - that's everyone's cue to stand. Take a breath, then begin walking. [ESCORT'S NAME], you'll have [BRIDE] on your [left/right] arm. Walk even slower than the others - this is the moment everyone's waiting for. When you reach the front, [ESCORT] will [kiss the bride / shake hands with groom / take a seat]. Let's walk through it."

Troubleshooting Scripts

Quick solutions for common rehearsal challenges - with exact words to say.

What if they walk too fast?

DIRECTOR SAYS: Pace Correction

"Hold up! Let's try that again, but pretend you're walking through honey. Really savor each step. Watch me... [DEMONSTRATE]. See? That's half the speed you were going. Tomorrow, the music will help pace you. Let's try once more."

What if the flower girl freezes?

DIRECTOR SAYS: Frozen Child Response

"[CHILD'S NAME], that's okay! Here's a secret - if you feel nervous tomorrow, just look for [PARENT/FAMILIAR PERSON] in the front row and walk straight to them. You don't have to throw petals if you don't want to. Just walking down the aisle makes you a perfect flower girl. Want to try again with [PARENT] waiting for you up front?"

What if someone's late tomorrow?

DIRECTOR SAYS: Late Arrival Plan

"Let's talk backup plans. If anyone is running late tomorrow, [COORDINATOR/DESIGNEE] will hold the start by a few minutes. If we absolutely must begin, whoever is missing will either skip walking in (and enter from a side door) or walk last before the bride. Exchange phone numbers now so we can coordinate if needed."

What if someone goes to the wrong position?

DIRECTOR SAYS: Position Fix

"No worries! If you end up in the wrong spot tomorrow, just stay there. The officiant will guide you, or just follow what the person next to you does. No one in the audience will know the difference. It's more important to keep moving than to get the position exactly right."

What about the recessional?

DIRECTOR SAYS: Quick Recessional Practice

"Great question! The recessional is everyone walking OUT after the ceremony. It's the reverse order and much more relaxed. The newlyweds go first, then the wedding party pairs up and follows. You can walk at normal speed - even joyfully fast! The parents follow, then guests are dismissed. Let's do one quick walk-through: [COUPLE], go ahead and walk back down the aisle together..."

Timing Cheat Sheet

Use this reference to set the right pace for your venue type.

Venue Type	Aisle Walk Time	Spacing Between People	Total Time (10 people)
Small Chapel	15-20 seconds	8-10 seconds	5-6 minutes
Traditional Church	40-50 seconds	15-20 seconds	8-10 minutes
Outdoor (Garden/Beach)	25-35 seconds	12-15 seconds	6-8 minutes
Hotel Ballroom	20-30 seconds	10-12 seconds	5-7 minutes
Backyard/Intimate	10-15 seconds	6-8 seconds	3-4 minutes

How to Count Spacing

Don't use a stopwatch - use visual markers instead:

For 8-10 second spacing: Next person starts when previous person passes the third pew/row

For 12-15 second spacing: Next person starts when previous person is halfway down the aisle

For 15-20 second spacing: Next person starts when previous person is two-thirds down the aisle

Pace Reference

Pace Description	Steps per Minute	When to Use
Very Slow (Bridal)	40-50 steps	Bride entrance, dramatic moments
Slow (Processional)	60-70 steps	Wedding party, parents
Moderate	80-90 steps	Recessional, flower girl/ring bearer
Normal Walking	100-120 steps	Never during ceremony!

Music Cue Quick Reference

Coordinate with your DJ/musician using these standard cue points.

Cue Point	Music Change	Who Moves	Notes
15-20 min before	Prelude begins	Guests arriving	Soft instrumental music
5 min before	Seating music	Ushers seat remaining guests	Signal ceremony is starting
Start of ceremony	Processional music	Officiant enters, then groom	Canon in D, traditional
After wedding party	Music continues	Ring bearer, flower girl	Same processional song
Bride entrance	Bridal chorus	Bride + escort	Everyone stands
After vows	Recessional music	Newlyweds exit first	Upbeat, joyful song

Communication Signals

Establish these signals with your music coordinator before the rehearsal:

Start processional: Nod or hand signal to DJ/musician

Switch to bridal music: Raise one finger or specific hand gesture

Hold/pause: Flat palm facing DJ (use if someone freezes)

Start recessional: Two fingers up or thumbs up

Emergency stop: Cross arms in X (only for emergencies)

NO MUSIC? NO PROBLEM!: If you don't have music at the rehearsal, designate someone to hum the tune or simply use verbal cues: 'Now, go!' The timing practice is what matters, not the music itself. For the actual ceremony, even a smartphone with a Bluetooth speaker works in a pinch.

Notes

Use this page to write specific names, timing adjustments, and ceremony details.

My Processional Order:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Key Contacts:

Music coordinator: _____ Phone: _____

Officiant: _____ Phone: _____

Venue contact: _____ Phone: _____

Timing Notes:

Aisle length (approx): _____ Aisle walk time: _____

Spacing between people: _____ Total processional time: _____