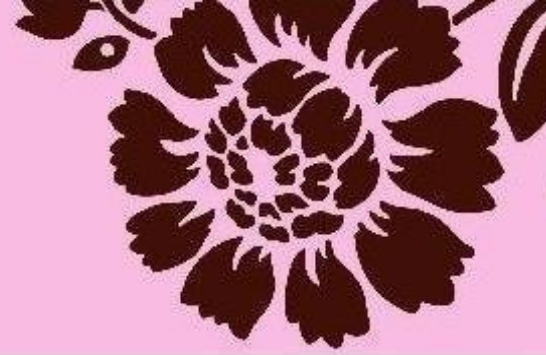


Wedding Bells Are Ringing

Creative Custom Ceremonies For All Occasions



'Support from Families'

Traditionally, the Support from Families part of the ceremony has always been reserved for the father of the bride. There was a time, in days gone past, where a woman was considered property of her father and therefore could be 'given away' in marriage. Such is not the case anymore, but the tradition continues.

In these more modern times, the parents of both the bride and the groom may stand to offer their love and support for the happy couple. After the bride has joined her groom at the altar, the person who walked her down the aisle (usually the father) gets a kiss on the cheek, shakes hands with the groom, then sits down.

Then, a little way into the ceremony, the fathers say something like, "Her mother and I do" at the appropriate time. But this is not always the case. With families changing such as they are, it may be that the mom says it, step-parents, both sets of parents, etc. The important thing is that it is someone who loves and supports you as a couple. Some couples have even chosen to have their children participate in this portion of the ceremony.

You might not think your parents will want to say anything during the ceremony, but you'd be surprised how many are flattered to be asked – especially the family of the groom. They often get a bit left out, since most of the focus is on the bride and her family.

Here are some ideas for including parents, special loved ones and even your friends this part of your ceremony.

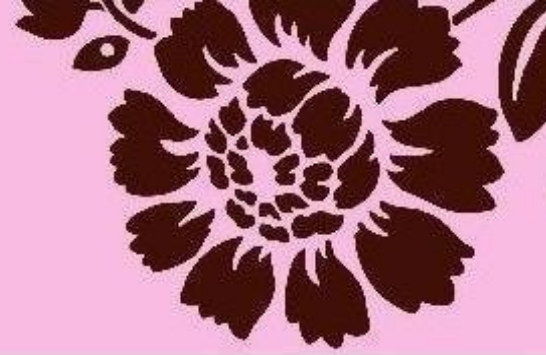
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Support from Families #1

The marriage of <Bride> and <Groom> brings together two different families; two unique story lines, so that a new chapter in their lives can begin to unfold.

Though this relationship was formed out of the love these two have found in each other, their marriage will ultimately be blessed by the support of their families.

Who stands with this woman to symbolize her family's support of this union?

“I do” ----- “We do” ----- or ----- “Her mother and I do”

Who stands with this man to symbolize his family's support of this union?

“I do” ----- “We do” ----- or ----- “His mother and I do”

Support from Families #2

Others would ask at this time, “Who gives this bride in marriage?” But I ask simply if she comes of her own will and if she has her family's blessing. <Bride>, is it true that you come of your own free will and accord?

Bride: Yes, it is true.

With whom do you come and whose blessings accompany you?

Bride's Attendant: She comes with her father, and her mother, and is accompanied by all of her family's blessings.

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Support from Families #3

The marriage of <Bride> and <Groom> is more than just the union of two people in love. It is also the joining of two families, of two sets of friends and of two patterns of life.

Who stands with this woman to symbolize her family's support of this union?

“I do” ----- “We do” ----- or ----- “Her mother and I do”

Who stands with this man to symbolize his family's support of this union?

“I do” ----- “We do” ----- or ----- “His mother and I do”

As these two people join together in marriage, they ask for the support and love of not only their families, but of their friends as well.

On this day, they ask that you be more than only friends of <Bride> or only friends of <Groom>. They ask that you recognize their special union and welcome them both as your friends in your lives.

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