

***OPTIONAL: DEVICE-FREE CEREMONY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Please let me know if you'd like me to make this announcement for you.

In consultations, I ask every couple if they would like me to make an announcement about it being a "device-free wedding ceremony." Probably 90% say yes, particularly after I show them a few photos of how "out of control" some people can be. See below, then keep reading.

This can happen at your wedding, and in the past every one of these has happened at a wedding I've led...

- People looking at devices, not you
- You seeing cameras, not faces, and feeling swarmed by paparazzi
- Devices that make noises with every photo (or ringing)
- People blocking others' view—of even the groom and family! distracting others with their movements
- And getting in the way of the professional at the key moment!

...But it doesn't have to be that way!



Brides say that when they come down the aisle, they want to see the faces of their family and friends, not everyone looking at their cameras and devices. At your request, about 3 minutes before the procession, I can go out to my spot and say:

“Good afternoon, the wedding is about to begin. I’ve been asked to make an announcement by (Groom) and (Bride).

You know, a LOT of people COULD have been invited to today’s wedding, but congratulations, YOU made the cut!
(there is always laughter and chuckling)

But with the PRIVILEGE of being here, comes the RESPONSIBILITY of being fully emotionally present while (Groom) and (Bride) share their expressions of love and commitment. You can see there is a professional photographer (and videographer) here (I gesture toward them) who will capture many wonderful images of today’s wedding, which means YOU don’t have to.

So if you would please take all of your devices: cameras, smartphones, iPads, and turn them OFF or put them in silent mode and place them in your pocket or purse, you will be undistracted and able to give your FULL attention to (Groom) and (Bride) as they voice their vows. So, PLEASE be nice, put AWAY your device, and the wedding is about to begin.

(Then I exit, and lead the procession in a few moments later)

Often, as a walk out back to begin the procession, there is light applause because many guests are happy that others won’t interfere with their view by raising their cameras/phones in the air.

The photographers and videographers always thank me, because there their images won’t have a bunch of amateur paparazzi in the background, and they are less likely to have someone get in their way of key photographs.

A few couples want me to announce that photos/video are permitted, as long as people are discreet and careful not to get in the way of the pros. I can adjust the wording if you like. I’m happy to make whichever announcement you like....or none at all. 😊