

Processional Ideas & Options

In a traditional church wedding, the officiant & groom entered from the side and then the bride's attendants walked down the aisle, followed by the bride escorted by her father. In a Christian ceremony, the bride is the officiant's right and the groom to the left. In Jewish ceremonies, the bride is the left and the groom to the right.

However, not many weddings I perform are done inside a church---so many Austin weddings are in the grand & lovely outdoors & this means, more or less, everyone has to process in some way.

Options abound! One of my favorite resources: [The Off Beat Bride \(click for more ideas!\)](#).

- Officiant with the groom, then the groom's attendants (solo), bride's attendants (solo), bride & escort.
- Officiant solo, groom with mom, bride's attendants escorted by groom's attendants (pairs), then bride escorted by father. (OR groom with mom and dad and bride with mom and dad)
- Officiant, attendants, groom solo, bride solo---or bride & groom together. Yep---I have had almost every configuration you can imagine.
- Once at the front of the ceremony space---attendants can stand in a V---flanking the bride and groom, or can stand in a circle around officiant, bride, & groom.
- Brides can be escorted by father, by father AND step-father (one on each side), by mother, by brother, or by friend---whatever feels right & comfortable for your situation. One bride I had was escorted by her two soon-to-be step-children---it was lovely, touching, and showed their support for her marriage to their father.
- Flower girls & Ring bearers: usually process before the bride---but again, be creative. I've even had couples who had a "ring dog" ---escorted up the aisle with the rings on his collar. And, in the case of a bride & groom who have already had a child together, I've seen their baby be pulled down the aisle in a wagon (adorable if your child is easy going)!
- Big pictures: There's NO WRONG WAY. Think about this:
 - **What do I want to portray symbolically?** (Example: Want to show that your parents are important to you but so is equality: ask BOTH parents to escort you down the aisle. Want to show the teenage children they are important---ask them to be maid of honor & best man.)
 - **How do I want to connect with tradition?** (If you've always imagined being walked down the aisle by dad, go for it! It will mean the world to him!)
 - **Are there traditions that I don't like?** (Hate the idea of "Who gives this woman in marriage? Then have me ask BOTH sets of parents, "Do you bless this marriage of your daughter to this man? Do you bless the marriage of your son to this woman?)
 - **What works best with the space?** After all, sometimes you have to be practical: one couple had to have their attendants in a circle around us because that was the only way to fit us all in the space---it was gorgeous!

