

General Flow Of Wedding Reception Activities

(Unless you are Elizabeth Taylor you may not have the routine down, so this page is simply an outline. Remember you do not have to do things the way they have always been done. It is your day and your memories. Plan it as you wish.)

Pre-Arrival

Soft background music is played while your guests arrive. No announcements will be made during this time unless instructed.

Arrival And Introductions

If you'd like to be announced upon your arrival the DJ will do so at this time. If you wish for the wedding party to be introduced, they will be announced first and the Bride and Groom last. If you choose this please remember to provide the wedding party name list and the order in which they will appear.

Dinner/Buffer

The type of music played during this time is your choice also or you can leave it to the DJ. Dinner music is usually softer while music during a buffet can be a bit more upbeat as people are more talkative and interactive.

First Dance

This usually occurs close to or at the end of the meal allowing you time to socialize with your guests. If you wish members of the wedding party can be invited to join you during your first dance. Just remember to allow ample time for the photographer to get great shots of the two of you dancing during this special moment.

Parental Dances

After the First Dance some couples choose to have a Father/Bride and Mother/Groom Dance. These can be done separately or combined into one.

Opening The Dance Floor

Upon completion of the above dances the DJ will announce that the dance floor is open. Hopefully, now everyone will become much more relaxed yet more active. This is where the photographers will be snapping lots of pictures so remember to keep smiling! This is a time they look forward to. Candid shots allow them to be creative with their camera.

Cake Cutting

Depending on the length of your reception the cake cutting occurs 30-45 minutes after the traditional dances. You don't want to wait too late because some guests will begin to leave at various times and you don't want the hall mostly empty when it's time to cut the cake. When you're ready the DJ will announce it and invite your guests to join you at the cake table. Remember, this will be another "Kodak moment" so keep smiling!

Toast

This normally takes place after the cake cutting but sometimes during a formal dinner.

Bouquet

The timing of this event varies. Some do it early some do it towards the end of the reception. Here again, you don't want to wait until most everyone has left, there'll be no one to catch the flowers! Single ladies will be asked to come forward.

Garter

Simply put this normally follows the bouquet toss. Single men will be invited to the center of the floor.

Departure

When the DJ is informed that you are ready to leave he will ask your guests to gather for your departure and well wishing.