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## SVS Candle Lighting Ceremony Tips by Esther Bengio

What a perfect ambiance by having a dramatic effect for a late afternoon or evening wedding with the creation of the flattering romantic glow of candles. Sometimes the candles or candelabras are lit before the guests arrive to give them the "Wow" effect! Other times the ushers light them as part of the prologue, or as part of the wedding ceremony.

Here are some dos, don'ts and what you should know about Candle Lighting the Ceremony:

- If you choose to have a Unity Candle, the parents or mothers of the Bride and Groom, may each light one of the two candles from which later the couple will light their Unity Candle.
- Candles can be burning as guests arrive, lit just before the mother of the bride is seated or lit by honored guests or an usher during the ceremony.
- **Be sure to test light all of the candles, even the Unity Candle, during the rehearsal, or at some time prior to the actual wedding ceremony.**
- Testing the candles before will ensure that the candles will stay lit and not be extinguished by an overhead air duct, draft or fan during the ceremony. Often times, I've noticed that this simple step of candle lighting is always overlooked, especially by brides who are planning their own wedding.
- Who will light the candles?
- When & how they will be lit. Check with the venue/church or synagogue to see if they will provide a candle lighter/snuffer or if these items will need to be rented.
- Check the site where you plan to hold the ceremony to be sure there aren't any fire regulations prohibiting candles.
- Notify your florist - in addition to planning the floral arrangements, he or she will also be responsible for placing the candles in their holders.
- Candles should be long-burning as well as dripless.

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