

WORST-CASE SCENARIO.

HOW TO STOP A WEDDING

If the object of your affection is about to marry someone else, you need to act quickly to present your case or forever hold your peace.

1 **Make your feelings known before the service.**

If you cannot appeal directly to the bride (or groom), ask to speak to the officiant. The officiant should be trained in how to handle such situations (go to step 4).

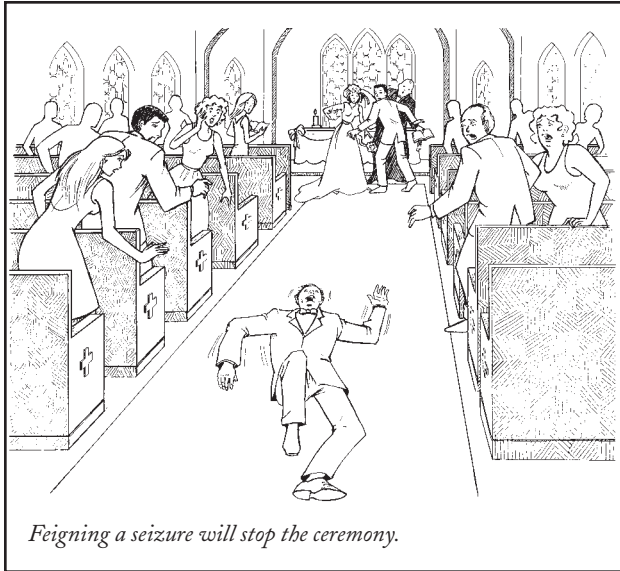
2 **If you cannot stop the ceremony beforehand, wait until the ceremony.**

When you hear the officiant ask, “Does anyone know a reason why these two people should not wed?” stand up, say “I do,” and approach the wedding party. (If you do not wish to speak out, proceed to step 5.)

3 **Ask the officiant if you can present your concerns in private.**

4 **Present your objections.**

The bride and groom will most likely join you and the officiant for a consultation. If all agree with you (very unlikely), the wedding will be halted. If the service is to continue, respect the decision and leave immediately. Expect to be escorted from the premises.



5 **If you do not have the courage to speak up during the ceremony, feign illness.**

Fainting is a common occurrence at weddings, and faking it may not stop the ceremony. Instead, feign a seizure. Be sure to act before the vows are spoken. During the commotion while you are being carried out, insist on speaking with the officiant and then confess your feelings.

6 **Pull the fire alarm.**

If you cannot fake illness, pull the fire alarm. This will disrupt the ceremony, but will only delay the service until the alarm can be turned off. Use this time to speak with the officiant.

7 **If the ceremony has been completed, prevent the signing of the wedding license.**

This is your last chance to prevent the marriage. Exchanging vows may make the marriage legitimate in the eyes of most people, but not necessarily in the eyes of the law. All states require a certificate of marriage signed by the officiant, bride, and groom. Traditionally, this document is not signed until after the service. Immediately after the ceremony, speak to the officiant and try to prevent the signing.

8 **If the license has been signed, try to prevent the marriage from being consummated.**

In some states and in some religions, the marriage is not final until physical consummation. Find out where the bride and groom are planning to spend the first night and profess your love one last time. If that fails, your only hope is divorce.