

So, You're Hitched – Now What?

Waging War with Wedding Woes

By Taryn George

This goes out to all my beautiful brides out there: nuptial negligence is a thing of the past. Your frog-turned-prince might not fully grasp this, but your wedding is the most important wedding of all time. Sure, you've seen friends and family tie the knot, but who cares about them now? They're the ones eating your crab cakes, drinking your booze, and regifting that heinous gravy boat that keeps getting passed around the family. It's go-time, and in the battle for matrimony, there are no survivors.

With eleven successful years in the business, I decided to strike a blow for weddings everywhere and reach out to brides – and families of brides – by providing them the tools they'll need to have a wedding that's worth remembering. I've selected seven of my most precious bits of advice, just for you, that I've gathered over my years of experience. I kid you not, these are worth their weight in gold.

1) An Honest Budget – Hidden costs can turn a happy event into a red-faced rage. Being upfront about budgets, eliminating unseen costs, and making realistic decisions are the hallmarks of a seamless event. No one likes unhappy surprises (none more so than brides and fathers of brides), so stay on your toes and don't be afraid to ask tough questions.

2) Event Awareness – Matrimonial math matters, ladies. How long does it take for the staff to get from the kitchen to the guests? How many staff are there for how many guests? What are your venue's benefits and limitations? These answers will serve you well when the rings are on and the garter's off. Know how many servers – or how few servers – are necessary to make your menu a success. Are you have a "cocktail-style" reception? If you are, there won't be enough seats for everyone, so don't be a dummy and serve steak. How can someone slice into that delicious filet while also holding the plate? Finally, the odds of you getting your hands on those bacon-wrapped scallops is slim to none when you're the one wearing the white gown. Your dinner plate becomes a prop and your napkin will remain painfully unstained, so make sure that your caterer knows to prepare you and your new husband one of the best gifts you'll receive all day: a to-go bag.

3) Clarity – Responsibilities are like crazy aunts: everybody's got at least one. On wedding day, not knowing who's-in-charge-of-what can be a huge mistake. Spending time in advance with your vendors to establish an event timeline and a list of responsibilities will yield massive dividends when all the family and friends are watching. Details are no longer just details at weddings – they are the cast and characters in a very particular play. Clarity is the first thing to evaporate at a poorly planned wedding, so my first line of defense comes in the form of Responsibility Management.

4) ABC Responsibility – Many vendors and caterers allow you to supply your own alcohol. State law can change any time, so be aware of the permit requirements and make sure you are adequately insured – that cousin of yours who sipped one-too-many Blushing Brides might just decide to drive his sedan into a telephone pole after the reception. Take the proper precautions to avoid a legal nightmare.

Whoever you choose to help realize the vision of your day, make sure that you are as aware of the details as they are. On your day, partner with passionate professionals, and you'll "avoid the oops."



Taryn

