

Can You Run Your Wedding without a Wedding Planner?

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A wedding planner is organized, creative, and can handle pressure with ease. This may also be said for many brides to be. If you are planning the most special day of your life without the help of a wedding planner, there are some important steps that will help to set you up for success.

Choose a wedding location that gives you a key contact person who will guide you during the months of planning and on the wedding day. This catering contact should create a detailed timeline that takes into account the schedule of food service, family photographs, delivery of rentals, your toasts, etc.

Choose a hair and makeup team that not only will come to your location but will manage your bridal party so that you will all look beautiful and get down the aisle on time.

Choose a disc jockey or a band with a leader who will not only gauge and direct the reception but will also make sure that the important people are in the room for toasts and other special rituals. Some professional bands have a manager or point person who is not in the band, someone whose sole purpose at your wedding is to be your entertainment liaison.

Choose a photographer who not only fits your personal style and budget but who will be happy to gather guests for special



pictures. If you are making sure specific family members are available for special photos, please notify them ahead of time.

Choose vendors who have worked together in the past and will work as a team for you on your wedding day. It is very helpful to contact referrals from the vendors you trust the most. Start your vendor selection process after you choose your location or caterer.

Now that you have chosen the best people to help create your special day, here are a few additional tips to help you with the details:

Plan to skip work during the week before the wedding.

Delegate duties to family and friends who will follow through for you.

Meet with your vendors three weeks in advance to confirm details, timing, and your expectations. Usually, the closer and clearer the relationship with your vendors, the better your experience will be.

Have a bridesmaid carry a copy of your wedding day timeline in her purse; you never know when you might forget "what is next."

Create an emergency kit and have it near at all times. An emergency kit may consist of sewing supplies, stain remover pads, make up, hair supplies, etc.

Finally, remember that if at any time you feel overwhelmed with the planning of your wedding, know that you can hire a professional wedding coordinator to help you through the last leg of the process. Hiring a professional wedding coordinator may be the insurance that allows you to have restful sleep for days, weeks, and even months before your very special day.