

# Wedding DO'S & DON'TS

BY LINDA FUCHSER

**Do** make your wedding a joint venture between bride and groom. Some grooms just want to know what to wear and where and when to show up. Some brides want to call all the shots and make all the decisions. Make your decisions together—you will be doing this for the rest of your lives and this is a good place to start.

**Do** use a wedding-planning guide to coordinate everything. This will ensure that everything needed to be done is done, and done on time. Buy a wedding binder to stay organized with vendors and receipts.

**Do** hire a wedding coordinator if your wedding is large enough (and most are). There are “day-of” coordinators who will make sure your big day runs smoothly.

**Do** ask who is paying for what. Not in those blunt terms, however. Sit down with family (both sides) and see what financial contributions they can take on. Keep the parents—bride and groom’s—updated with plans.



**Do** get things done as far in advance as possible. You don't want to discover the day before the wedding that you forgot to get a marriage license or your dress isn't ready.

**Do** let the ceremony reflect who the bride and groom are as individuals and who you are as a couple. Do this through music, scriptural readings, vows and other personal stories.

**Do** take into consideration “family tensions” or “sore spots” when planning seating. If parents are divorced and remarried, and there's tension between them, be sensitive about how they're seated

at both the ceremony and reception or dinner. This will prevent unnecessary stress and perhaps tears.

**Do** delegate, delegate, delegate! Let others help so when wedding week arrives you have time to enjoy your guests rather than arriving at your own wedding too tired to enjoy it.

To the Bride: **Do** wait as long as possible to take off the dress. Once it's off, the magic is over and the day is done. So, stay in that dress until the last dance is done and you've waved good-bye to every guest.

To the Groom: **Do** go on a date with your “beloved” during this planning time at least once a month without discussing wedding plans; concentrate on your relationship.



## Don't...

**Don't** think you have to spend more money on a wedding than it would cost for a college education or new house; however, consider twice about hiring cheap professionals. Some things are worth paying that little bit extra for. Remember, a good picture can bring back amazing thoughts and memories, and a bad one will bring back nothing.

**Don't** forget to get a marriage license. That is your sole responsibility not that of the minister or officiant. You must go to the courthouse in the county where the ceremony will be held. No exceptions.

**Don't** buy a dress in a smaller size and think you'll diet and squeeze in by the wedding date. Buy a dress that fits and be dedicated to taking good care of your body. If you happen to lose a ton of weight by the wedding day, get the dress altered.

**Don't** be shy about speaking up for yourselves. This is your wedding. Just because your bridesmaid has her idea of what she wants to wear doesn't mean

you have to let her. Or because your “I-think-I-cansing-but-can't” cousin wants to sing doesn't mean you have to let him. Tell these people how much you love them and thank them for their wonderful offer with a gentle statement that you've already chosen your dresses and planned your music (or whatever it may be).

**Don't** procrastinate. If you want a disaster the day before and the day of the wedding, just put things off. But the more organized you are and the better you've delegated those last-minute things, the more you will be able to participate in and enjoy wedding day.

**Don't** have unrealistic expectations about everything being perfect. Beautiful? Yes. Perfect is harder. Remember that this is a joyful celebration of love rather than an exercise in perfection. Once the day arrives, let go and enjoy. All the hard work is done. Unwind and have fun.

**Don't** drink alcoholic beverages prior to the ceremony, save it for the reception (even then remember to sip your drinks slowly—you'll want to remember your wedding). There are enough challenges without having a best man, maid of honor, groom or even the bride drunk at the ceremony. Yes, nerves are raging and tension is high. But how

does this sound when it's time to say your vows: “Please slur after me?”

**Don't** overdo it the night before your wedding. This is not the time to stay out late drinking with the out-of-town guest, put last-minute favors together or pack for the honeymoon. A good wedding starts the day before with a good meal and sleep.

Brides: **Don't** forget your groom's parents. Remember, this day is just as important for them as for your parents. After all, without them you would not be getting married to your wonderful man!

**Don't** forget: This is the happiest day of your life!



Linda Fuchser is a San Clemente resident and wedding coordinator at Ocean Hills Church in San Juan Capistrano. She can be reached at linda.fuchser@gmail.com