

Why use a Wedding Coordinator

Call them coordinators, consultants, arrangers or advisers, they are the professionals of the wedding industry providing expertise in the planning and co-ordination of one of the biggest events in your life. They are also skilled managers, negotiators and mediators and are able to take the worry and frustrations out of arranging your big day. Wedding coordinators can also provide many ideas to help make your wedding unique and different.

Whether you don't have time to arrange your wedding or you simply want someone else to take the strain so you can enjoy not just the day itself but also the time leading up to your special day, a wedding coordinator is the solution.

Today's bride is spending more money than ever before to ensure that her wedding day - the single most important day of her life - is planned to perfection. Once reserved only for the very rich, today's brides and grooms-to-be, often busy with dual careers yet wanting to make their wedding uniquely personal, are turning to coordinators for help. Wedding coordinators are being used more to help couples save time, money and considerable stress planning a wedding.

More people are finding that a good wedding coordinator could be a source of information, ideas, and contacts for the bride-to-be. Hiring a wedding coordinator could help ensure that the wedding day ends far more spectacular than the bride has ever envisioned. They provide guidance on etiquette, invitations, planning and directing the rehearsal and ceremony, even arranging transportation and accommodations. Wedding coordinators may also assist in locating a site for the ceremony, shopping for the wedding gown and wedding accessories, arranging for childcare. As such, professional wedding coordinators are compensated well for their knowledge, talent, time, and expertise.

Benefits of using a wedding coordinator

- Many wedding coordinators operate on a flat fee basis but some work on an hourly or a percentage of the total wedding cost basis. Contrary to popular belief, a wedding coordinator can often save you money since they are well versed in negotiating with businesses and can often buy wedding services at a much better rate. Any savings they make are passed on to you. Consequently, the real cost of using a wedding coordinator may be very little, if anything at all.
- A further benefit a wedding coordinator provides is to bring strict financial control of your wedding expenses. Many couples, when arranging their own wedding, end up overspending against their original budget. In some cases quite considerably. When you engage a wedding coordinator, you provide them with a budget within which they must work. It is then their

job to contract the various services you need, and negotiate these services within the budget you have available. They will also negotiate and advise you of all deposits, payment schedules, appointments and delivery dates.

- The wedding coordinator assumes the role of a planner, facilitator, mediator, money manager, artisan and organizer of all parties concerned. Their role is to be "on top" of everything - every finite detail of the wedding. Wedding coordinators can do just about everything - from arranging a budget and timetable to remembering to bring white bobby pins for your veil. They will be setting up appointments, offering etiquette advice, mailing invitations and recording responses, coordinating the decorations, negotiating contracts, and attending to many other details. However, many planners also set their limits as to what they can and cannot do.

Our Top Tips When Dealing with Coordinators

- Weddings, being extremely emotional events, can oftentimes try the patience of a saint. The wedding coordinator must be able to "handle" any situation that will arise. They will be dealing with not only the bride and groom-to-be, but everyone else in their families and circle of friends. Even the most well-planned, beautifully orchestrated event has some sort of emotional twist or turn, that a coordinator must be able to skillfully negotiate.
- Establish the basis of a wedding coordinator's charge and get their quotation in writing.
- Ask the names of at least two couples whom the wedding coordinator has recently worked for and contact them for a reference.
- Tell your wedding coordinator about any special requirements or ideas you would like incorporated in your wedding day.
- Let your wedding coordinator know what your budget is.
- Let your coordinator know about any difficult family situations you have so they can anticipate the likely problems and have solutions ready.
- Is the coordinator organized?
- Do you feel comfortable with them?
- Are they always friendly?
- Do they know their stuff?
- How long have they been in business?