



A few tips to help ensure the success of your Wedding Reception!

The placement of the entertainment plays an important part in the success of your reception. There seems to be a little trend of centering the dance floor and then placing the DJ on an opposite wall or in a corner, sometimes as much as 50-75 feet away. In most cases there are tables between the DJ and the dance floor. Whether you are using a band or a dj, they need to be located where they can best do their job, and that is by the dance floor. The speakers need to be up on stands for the best possible sound, and you don't want tables with guests between the speakers and the dance floor. Two major problems arise when this takes place: one is that the guests seated at the tables in front of the speakers are usually not happy about it, and the other is the music volume needs to be louder since it has to travel further to reach the dance floor. It is also important that when the band or dj is doing the introductions or facilitating the toast that they can be seen as well as heard. If you've ever been to an event where someone is making an announcement, but you don't know where it's coming from, you notice everyone in attendance looking around the room trying to find out where the announcer is. And finally, a professional DJ with good equipment does not need a lot of room; a 5 foot by 4 foot space is usually enough. With a little planning you can still have the dance floor centered and the DJ next to it. Please consider these thoughts when planning your special event. Your dj or band will appreciate it. And in the end, so will you and your guests.

Remember, when making your music selections that there are two types, those for creating a mood and easy listening usually played during the cocktail hour and during dinner. The other is, of course, the dance music. Make sure the songs you choose for that time period will get your guests on the floor. There are a lot of great songs that are best left for working out. Leave your DJ plenty of freedom to program the music for the night as that is their area of expertise, and that's what you're paying them for!

On another note, I want to offer a little advice on scheduling, and since I have performed at over 1200 receptions and have pretty much seen it all, I feel confident in what I am about to say! Don't break the energy of the reception by stopping for activities every 15 minutes. You will only get the full attention of your guests about 3 times in an evening, so group your events a bit. Don't do 4 separate toasts, two at a time or even four is fine if they are not too long. The cake and bouquet/garter (if you are doing one) can be done back to back. While the staff is cutting up and serving the cake, the bouquet and garter can be taking place on the dance floor and keeping the party going. Also, please remember a timeline is important, but you also need to adjust it as the evening plays out. If dinner takes 10 minutes longer than expected, I wouldn't rush the cake to make up time. The important thing at the end of the night is that the events took place in a **timely** fashion, and that everyone had an unbelievably good time!

Hiring a professional wedding coordinator can be a tremendous asset but *please make sure you hire someone with training and experience* in the event/wedding field. Check their references and find out if they belong to any professional associations. Hiring your friend's aunt will end up being more of a liability than an asset and can actually hinder the other professionals that you have secured to be a part of your day. If you would like any referrals please feel free to ask me.

Book the photographer for enough time that they will be there for all the events.

Keep the bar inside the same room as the reception if at all possible. Making your guests "leave the party" to get a drink can end up with guests outside or in a hallway.

If you need to leave the reception for a sunset or some other photo, I would suggest not being gone more than 20 minutes. Your guests are there to see YOU. Also, the more photos you take before the ceremony the more time you have to spend with your guests and enjoy your reception.

Your friends and family are coming to see you get married and have fun so don't get too concerned about the small stuff. Just try to relax and enjoy the day...it goes by fast!