

How To Keep The Wedding Day Relaxed

I remember when Austin proposed to me... I felt CLUELESS! No one in my family had ever had a wedding that included anyone outside of their close family. Getting started was the hardest part... Now it's your time girlfriend!! The day you've been waiting for all your life! You're WEDDING PLANNING!!

There's so much excitement that comes with planning your wedding: getting your dress, taste testing for you cake, knowing you bout to spend the rest of ya life with ya manzzzz!!...but there's also nerves, confusion, concerns, questions, and "where do I starttttt?". Don't worry, I GOTCHUUUU! Whether you're one of my brides or you found me on this endless web, come on in! The waters nice. AND I got lots to share with you, boo!

If you don't know me, lemme share with you that I'm even credible enough to write an article you wanna read. I'm a destination wedding and elopement photographer. So big and small, I walk closely with a lot of brides and grooms in planning their big day. I want to share with you some things I've learned along the way to keep the day as STRESS-FREE as possible... because HELLO, uncommon to popular belief you DO NOT have to be stressed the heck out on the day that changes your life forever. Alright, lezzzz do this thang!

one.PRIORITIES

Alright, gal pal. You can do this. Getcho calendar out, grab a paper and pen, and maybe even some coffee because we're getting this list together, and we're getting some dates on the calendar! So first things first... let's think of 3-5 BIG things that are a MUST. Things like your dress. If you don't have your dress, let's get a date on the calendar - so whip that phone out and text mama, mawmaw and whoever else is going with you and find a date that works for everyone. Do you have a venue? No, like do you actually HAVE that venue and put in your down payment to secure your date? Have you booked your photographer and videographer? All of these things were HUGE details for ME... But what is most important to you? Write em down. Consider the things that will take time. The dress is a good example of this because it could take months to find the RIGHT dress and then even longer to get it altered. Your photographer is a big detail as well because most photographers book out 1-2 years in advance. I know this part isn't the most fun... but it will for sure make your planning go smoother.

two.BUDGET

So this is the part where you find out what daddy's paying for, ya boo's parents are paying for and what you're paying for... Money. This is why your prioritiezzzz are so important - because the venue you want, that is without question at the top of your list sets the tone for what kind of flowers you decide to get. So STOP, get off of Pinterest where that really cool chandelier and outdoor dance floor is pinned, and go back to your priorities. Who reallllyyyy needs a chandelier anyways ;)

three.YOUR CREW

This part is huge. Who will you surround yourself with the day of your wedding? Will they allow you to cry when you read over your vows one last time? Will they drink wine and dance with you to shake off the nerves? Can you trust them? Your crew goes as far as the family members you want with you, your wedding party, and even your vendors. Do you want great aunt Betty Sue prancing in and fixing your lipstick that you JUST PUT ON? Remember, you don't have to suit everyone else's desires... Do what is going to make you the most comfortable and relaxed...and for Pete's sake, I can't emphasize this part enough: you MUST trust your vendors. I went to a wedding once where the food showed up AN HOUR LATE... People literally left before the food arrived. And yes, it suckkked for the bride and groom (and honestly everyone there lol), but who does it fall back on? The bride and groom. You must know without a shadow of a doubt, your vendors have your back that day and will do whatever it takes to go above and beyond to make your day the best it can possibly be.

As a wedding photographer this is HUGE HUGE HUGE: Make sure to get a photographer who makes your whole heart come alive when you see their work and talk to them. They are there pretty much every moment and second of the day with you so you want to feel relaxed and comfortable around them while also trusting they will capture the moments that are so special for you. Also, you want to trust them just the same as any other vendor including all weather situations - cloudy, sunny and bright, raining... Need someone to hold the train of your dress? They should be on top of it. Your photographer is so much more than someone holding a really nice camera in their hand - often times they act as a wedding director, especially when there isn't one present.

HTML Link to Contact Page: [Need a photographer for you special day?](#)

four. TIMELINE PLANNING

This one is probably one of the most important parts because it's literally your wedding day in written form that every person there is going by including: YOU AND YO BOO, the wedding party, the vendors, and even grandma and grandpa if you have them in some pictures. So here's tha thang... You could seriously make wedding day's into a 2-day event because of all the things you could stuff into one event. With that said, you HAVE TO allow yourself time to breathe or you're going to be stressed to the maxxxx. Here's an example of timeline with loads of extra time allotted: (Insert PDF: Example Wedding Timeline For Brides). In this example, there is about 15 extra minutes allotted for EVERYTHING. This is one of the biggest mistakes I see brides make. If you think family pictures are going to take 20 minutes because "theres only 10 of us," TRUST ME, allow 15 more minutes... We're dealing with people... and you know Grandma Winnie Lou is gonna wanna tell you how pretty you are for about 5 minutes and evaluate your dress for another 3. Here's an empty timeline you can fill out for your special day with lots of extra space for add-ins: (Insert Word Doc: Empty Wedding Timeline For Brides).

five. GO-GETTER GAL/GUY

Time and time again I have seen Bridey Tina and Groomy Tim having to run around cocktail hour trying to find Uncle Tommy because he's supposed to be in the next picture... Oh, and guess what Cousin Todd is missing, too... Next thing you know 30 minutes and 13 conversations later the bride is back with the missing family members. It wastes SO much of your precious time and makes the entire family impatient and antsy... So no, this is NOT the same as your wedding coordinator/director. This is a guy or gal that is confident and aggressive enough to go find Uncle Tommy and Cousin Todd quickly and smoothly without getting caught talking to 13 people on the way there and back.

six. RELAX + ENJOY

During my wedding planning season, I was also in my last semester of college taking 21 hours (is that even legal? It shouldn't be.), traveling to see my fiancé 2 hours away on the weekends, doing homework at night, and wedding planning in between classes during the day... I understand. Life does NOT stop, but I remember giving my Senior Presentation Speech and one of my teachers asked me if there was anything I would've done differently and my answer was this: "i would redo it all by prioritizing my peace over everything." NOTHING is worth losing your peace. So if something crazy happens and your flowers end up pink instead of red... or your favorite

restaurant can't cater your wedding because they're already booked... brush it off, sis. At the end of the day, you will still be marrying the love of your life and that's the reason for all of this anyways.

Alright fam bam! That's all for now. Let me know your thoughts below, and feel free to share with your bride friends and family!