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Wedding Week "I Do's" And "I Don'ts" For The "On Schedule" Mother Of The Bride

By Charles Syracuse

If you are reading this article, congratulations are in order! You've made it to the final count down of your daughter's wedding. This accomplishment is no small feat, as I am sure you are well aware. However, even though that proverbial light at the end of the tunnel is shining brightly, there is still work to be done.

If all has gone according to schedule, there should be precious little for you to do this week. If all has not gone according to schedule, it's time to jump into action! I'll address the first situation in this article and the second situation in a subsequent article, as they both require vastly different approaches. In addition to these articles, be sure to check out

www.bridalblog.info

for more information.

If you fit into the "according to schedule" category, your main duties are in the emotional realm to the bride. No matter what the relationship is between you and your daughter, she needs you know more than ever. Even if you are going to write your own article entitled "My Daughter, the Bridezilla," you must remain calm, attentive, and helpful. If you aren't sure exactly what your daughter needs right now, just ask. She'll either be more than happy to give you some assignments, or you'll draw back a nub. Either way, you can always say that you did try to help as the play-by-play of the final week is rehashed over and over again in years to come. If you are asked to help, do your duties cheerfully without giving any opinion of them (unless, of course, you are asked).

In addition to supporting your daughter, you also need to remember that you are about to play hostess to out of town guests. Of course, since you are in the "according to schedule" category, you already have all reservations booked and confirmed. Use this final week to prepare some sort of gift basket to place in the guests' rooms. This basket can be as fancy or plain as you would like it to be. Whatever you choose, it is always a good idea to include maps and lists of local activities and attractions. Even if you are going to be busy the entire wedding weekend, your guests may only be occupied for four or five hours. Hosting a nice brunch the morning after the wedding is also a very considerate gesture. If

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you just can't get this together on your own, call a few girlfriends. They'll probably be glad that they have a task to do that will truly help you out.

So, the wedding day is finally here. Yet again, you're not quite ready to relax yet. There are some hard and fast rules you should abide by today:

- 1.The only opinion you should give is a positive one.
- 2.Speak only kind words of high praise concerning your daughter and new son-in-law, no matter what your opinion of them really is.
- 3.Think of a friendly, appropriate, personal remark for everyone that you see.
- 4.Be dressed and ready before the schedule dictates in order to show your daughter how important this day is to you.
- 5.If you are married to your daughter's father, make sure he is ready early, too.
- 6.Keep the focus on your daughter. Now is not the time to create any drama of any sort. If someone starts to argue with you about anything (including your daughter), don't become defensive. Just smile, pat the person on the arm, and say that you need to keep mingling.

I wish I could add in these rules to enjoy yourself, but that's just not your job for the day. If you are able to do all of the above and enjoy yourself at the same time, that's wonderful. However, your enjoyment is not to come at the expense of your daughter and her needs. Just remember, this is her day. Let her have this day to fill with many positive memories of friends and family. What better gift could you give this marvel you have raised since her birth? She is a miracle and she deserves to have her day in the sun.

Pepper Montero

Pepper and her husband run a wedding coordination business in the Upstate of South Carolina. They have been coordinating weddings for the last two years. This article may be reprinted freely as long as all links remain active.

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Wedding Week "I Do's" And "I Don'ts" For The Mother Of The Groom

By Pepper Montero

You are sitting in the right-hand pew looking at your soon to be daughter-in-law. As she begins to say her vows, she glances your way. What do you see as she looks into your eyes? Is it adoration and gratitude over becoming part of your family, or does she quickly look away, unwilling or unwanted to make eye contact with you?

Hopefully, you aren't really in the church quite yet nor has the big day already come and gone. Ideally, when reading this article, you are at least one week away from the day your son marries the woman to whom he is committing himself and his life. If you want a healthy relationship with your future daughter-in-law, read on, check out

www.bridalblog.info

, and carefully follow this advice.

Unfortunately, as the mother of the groom, you have little to no say—so in the wedding. Some people would argue that if you are footing some of the bill that you do have a right to express your opinion and have some things your way. As a wedding consultant, I'm telling you that you don't.

Unless your son's fiancée asks for your opinion, do not give it! Don't even let your son in on your true thoughts about his bride-elect or the wedding that is to come. Mother-in-law relationships can get quite messy. Give them the best possible start by being quietly supportive.

Another good quality for a groom's mom to have is flexibility. If the schedule says to be a certain place at a certain time and the bride changes her mind five minutes prior, go with it! You and I both know what a major disaster this can lead to, but in the end, it doesn't matter. No mishaps are ever blamed on the mother of the groom unless she has been loudly unsupportive.

Avoid being passive aggressive as well. By this, I mean don't neglect a time schedule just to get back at your son or his fiancée. Don't "accidentally" spill any substance on anyone or anything to make any kind point.

Focus your attention during the week prior to the wedding on taking care of your out of town guests. Planning welcome baskets for hotel rooms and day-after brunches can take your mind off of those wedding aspects with which you do not agree. In regards to your out of town guests, it is best to keep your opinions to yourself again. You don't want people pitying the bride on her wedding day because of the mess she is getting into with her future mother-in-law. Believe me, the overlooked details you are dying to dish about will be very obvious to your guests. Better to take the high road on this one!

As this final week comes and goes, try to think of ways to improve your relationship with your son's betrothed. If you already have a good relationship, stay out of the way so that you don't cause any last minute tensions. If you don't have a good relationship, I suggest writing your daughter-in-law a letter wishing her the best and assuring her that you are glad she will be a part of your family (even if you aren't). Respecting your son and his bride are the most important gifts you can give them at their wedding.

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