



Down The Aisle
WEDDING SPECIALISTS



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LOVE NOTES

DEDICATED TO MY SWEET SWEET SB
I LOVE YOU MORE THAN YOU'LL EVER KNOW



STEP SEVEN | WEDDING DAY TIMELINE

Prepare yourself. This is the most challenging part of section two and many couples get a little heartburn when working through their wedding day timeline. Take a deep breath, we are going to tackle it together, starting with the key considerations we need to keep front of mind when planning our wedding itinerary.

A TIMELINE NEEDS TO BE CUSTOMIZED

Our wedding day is unique. We have devoted months to planning our perfect event and we need to build a timeline that reflects all the individual elements and their supporting logistics. We realize that there are many templates online but relying on one rather than creating your own is the equivalent of trying to fit a circle into a square box - you can make it work but it is going to be awkward. We need to put the work in and we need to ensure we run on time. We plan for a 15 minute buffer but no more and it is so important that someone is keeping an eye on the clock, especially with the ceremony start time. This sets the tone for the entire event and if we are running late off the hop, it will impact everything else that follows.

YOUR CEREMONY IS THE ANCHOR

No matter the format, we always structure the day around the ceremony start time. It is our anchor and we build up and build down accordingly. We recommend creating a list of all the individual activities that need to be in your itinerary and stacking them in the order that they will occur relative to the ceremony start time. This will show you the sequence of events or in laments terms 'the order of things'. With that finalized we can now start to work on the timing of these events and create a comprehensive timeline.

You also need to be mindful of the venue's curfew (their set closing time) and your catering plan when you are building your timeline. We all know from personal experience that if there is too long a lag between cocktails and supper, guests get antsy so ideally we want to sit down for dinner 45 to 60 minutes from the reception start time. We also want to ensure our itinerary allows a nice block of time for dance and social before last call and this can be anywhere from two to four hours.

TRANSPORTATION TIME

Please do not forget to factor in transportation time when you are organizing your wedding day, and then add a buffer in case there is traffic. One better is to do a dry run so that you know the actual time it takes to get from one destination to another, especially if you will be on the move throughout the day. Pro tip is to invest in group transportation for the wedding party. Having everyone present and accounted for, in the right place at the right time, is one less logistical beast for you to worry about.

YOUR MASTER OF CEREMONIES + RECEPTION PLAN

It is important that your wedding party and your vendors have an itinerary but it is even more important that your Master of Ceremonies is familiar with the schedule of events, especially once we transition into the reception celebration. We rely on our MC to cue us as we work through the grand entrance, speeches, family dances and whatever else we have planned as part of our formal program. The time stated in the timeline is a guide and the MC must be able to work with the flow of the event - for instance we would not want them to cue the father daughter dance exactly at 800 pm if the bride was in the loo.

pro tips + advice

- The time that you put on the invitation is the time that you start at with no more than a 15 minute buffer; rule of thumb is to expect your first guest 30 minutes early and the last to be 5 minutes late.
- Give yourself ample time to get ready. A bridesmaid will take close to an hour to gussy up with the bride pushing close to two. Plus, you have likely invested in a professional photographer and don't want to miss any photos because you were rushing and did not make time to capture those getting ready shots.
- Paper itineraries for your wedding party are pretty but they won't last the day. Definitely go digital.

DOWN THE AISLE LIBRARY RESOURCES

- Templates and Sample Timelines for Wedding Party + Vendors + Master of Ceremonies
- Suggested Timeframes for Common Wedding Customs + Traditions



FIRST LOOK AND PORTRAITS

Are you planning a first look on your wedding day and what are your photography plans? As a rule of thumb, couples who go the First Look route will have more time for family photos, wedding portraits and those artistic shots we see on the cover of magazines. This plays well if your photographer has planned multiple locations for your portrait session, plus you gain the time in between your ceremony and reception to capture a few more shots. This is not for everyone and couples who plan to have their photos done after the ceremony will need to be organized and mindful of timing, especially if the reception is set to follow straight afterwards.

VENDOR TIMELINES

A key vendor on your wedding day is of course your photographer. We entrust them to capture all the details and candid moments and it is important that they are present to physically take those photographs. Each photographer will have their own unique service package but as an industry standard you could safely plan on an 8 to 12 hour block of time. To get the most value out of your time together, we recommend having them start shooting 30-60 minutes before the wedding party is dressed and then count out the time frame from there. Now that you have a contractual end point, you can ensure that all the items you want photographed are included. This may mean that you get to cake cutting and bouquet tosses right after dinner or invest in a longer time frame to ensure not a single moment is missed.

A final note on vendors is to be aware of any additional service fees or overtime charges that may be due if you run over schedule without prior notice. If your timeline is tight and you are struggling to make it work it may be best to schedule additional hours rather than being hit with a higher service charge later on.

WEDDING PLANNING

NOTES + TAKE AWAYS

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JULY						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

I love her and that's the beginning and end of everything. - F. SCOTT FITZGERALD

WEDDING PLANNING

IMPORTANT DATES + PRIORITIES

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WEDDING PLANNING

IMPORTANT DATES + PRIORITIES

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Thank you

WE ARE GRATEFUL AND HONORED
TO BE A PART OF YOUR WEDDING PLANNING



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