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10 Tips for choosing bridesmaids

During my years of planning weddings, I have seen numerous brides choosing bridesmaid for all the wrong reasons. Selecting the wrong bridesmaid will increase stress and in some cases money.

QUESTION: Why is this person in your wedding? **ANSWER:** My mother told me to include her, as she is a friend of the family.

When selecting bridal party members take the following into account:

Choose Friends and Family – Choose friends and relatives who have always supported you. Have a good relationship with your bridesmaid's -to- be. Choose friends who are quick to support, and slow to complain. A personal relationship with your bridesmaid is paramount to the success of your bridal party.

Listening - Select bridesmaids who are good Listeners. During the planning process they will be given instructions about dresses, rehearsal, hairstyles, transportation, accessories etc. A valuable bridesmaid is one who listens, and doesn't complain and argue about the bride's decisions.

Time Conscious - Select bridesmaids who are time conscious, who will value your time and will show up for appointments. A constantly late bridesmaid is inconsiderate of others.

Team Players – Select bridesmaids who want to make your day special and who have one goal. That goal is to "make you happy". Choose a bridesmaid who will help in the planning process. Finally, a bridesmaid who will think of tasks even before you ask.

What do you have in Common? – Select bridesmaids that share the same views as you. Never select bridesmaids because you need many people as possible in your bridal party. If asked who is that person? What will you say? Wise selection will make this question easy to answer.

Employment – Choose bridesmaids who are employed. Traditionally bridesmaids pay for their dresses. Is your bridesmaid unemployed? Bridesmaids who are not employed will need financial assistance.

What's Expected – Tell your bridesmaids what is expected of them. Ask if they are willing to follow your rules and request. Troublesome bridesmaids will object to your rules, suggestions, and your requirements. Let that be a sign that this person is not right for your bridal party.

Trust – How well do you know your bridesmaid? What is she like in a formal gathering? Is she loud? How will she react around alcohol? Is your bridesmaid a good representation of you? Would your bridesmaid lie to you? (Yes. I purchased my dress when she did NOT)

Age appropriateness – The same as what do you have in common? Keep the age group close.

Here's what bridesmaids do:

1. Help with the planning of the bridal shower and Bachelorette party
2. Assist with wedding tasks (RSVP tracking, addressing envelopes, working on favors and wedding program etc.
3. Assist with wedding dress selection; pay for their own dresses, shoes etc.
4. Participate in the processional and recessional
5. Assist with pre-celebration parties

In conclusion your bridesmaids will be an intricate part of your wedding. Select them wisely and have fun. If there are any other topics you would like to read about, please e-mail your topic(s) to info@radeventproduction.com