

MOTHER OF THE BRIDE/GROOM



SURVIVAL GUIDE

CONGRATULATIONS!

The moment has finally arrived.

Your baby is getting married!

Congratulations are in order for the happy couple and your family on this touchstone event.

This will be an exciting time in your life, yet one that can quickly become overwhelming.

We at Darianna[®] Bridal and Tuxedo have created a Survival Guide to help you prepare and move you smoothly along your wedding planning journey.



ONE YEAR OUT

EXPECTATIONS

One of the first considerations to discuss with the Bride and Groom To Be are finances. Have a candid discussion about the wedding budget and “must haves” versus the “wish list”. Decide who will be financially responsible for wedding vendors. Set a definitive and realistic budget and stick to it. These may be uncomfortable conversations but if expectations are discussed ahead of time, it will make for an easier process in the long run.

VENUE

Start looking for a wedding venue that will match the couples wedding day goals. Is the theme a black tie event or a casual affair? What event spaces would work for their dream day? Do they want a spiritual or religious ceremony that will require booking a church or synagogue? Draw up a tentative guest list to gauge your guest count. These decisions will factor heavily into what space is perfect for their day.

PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY

Research and book a wedding photographer for the engagement session, save the date, and wedding day photos. There are legions of photographers and videographers and finding one that will match the couple’s wedding vibe takes time. There are also numerous packages and add-ons to be considered to capture those moments that can’t be recreated.

ONE YEAR OUT

FLORALS

Begin the process of looking for florists to provide the perfect bridal bouquet, centerpieces and boutonnieres. Proper budgeting for florals is usually one of the most underestimated costs in hosting a wedding. Be prepared with a “must have” list.

LODGING & TRANSPORTATION

Reach out to local hotels in the area to offer lodging for your guests if necessary. Check out transportation services if you plan on offering the wedding party and guests transportation between the hotel and the venue.

REGISTRY

If the Bridal couple is going to start a gift registry, now is a good time to start considering what the couple needs and what could be reasonably requested as gifts for their wedding.

BRIDAL ATTIRE

Start thinking about wedding attire! Most specifically, it's time to start looking for the wedding dress. Wedding gown manufacturer lead times generally range anywhere from 4-6 months. Alterations also need to be factored into that timeline as well and should be initiated 6-8 weeks prior to the wear date. Familiarize yourself with bridal salons in the area and make appointments to come in and shop for bridal gowns.

SIX-TEN MONTHS OUT

SEND OUT SAVE THE DATES

Send out Save the Date announcements to let family and guests know that the couple has set a date for the wedding and you'd like them to attend.

CHOOSE YOUR MOTHER GOWN

Now is the time to begin the process of dress shopping for your gown for the special day. General lead times for Mother dresses are 3 - 5 months and your gown will most likely also require alterations. Check in with your Bride and Groom to see if they have specific ideas about your attire. Some Mothers are given a color palette to choose from, others are free to find whatever suits them personally. Whatever the directive, it is best to have this conversation before a gown is chosen.



SIX-TEN MONTHS OUT

BOOK YOUR HAIR AND MAKE-UP

Hopefully you've already found a gown that is flattering and makes you feel gorgeous. But have you considered your hair and makeup for the day? Time to start researching hair and makeup artists and inquiring about whether you'll be getting ready with the Bride and her party or if you're free to choose your own services.

WEDDING PLANNER/DAY OF COORDINATOR

Will you need a Wedding Planner? Does your venue offer a Day Of Coordinator? These are two different services that will be of valuable service. A Planner will stay on top of the overall timeline and all the details so that you can enjoy your big day worry free; the day of coordinator will make sure it stays on time.

CHOOSE MENSWEAR

Have a discussion on what the Groom, best man, and groomsmen will be wearing on the wedding day. Will the couple need a formal tuxedo or a more casual suit? Will the party purchase their attire or rent it? If renting, find out what the rental process will look like and what is included with your rental.

PLAN REHEARSAL DINNER

Will you be hosting a Rehearsal Dinner? Start looking for a rehearsal dinner venue! Who will be attending? Will you include immediate family only, or out-of-town guests as well as family members? Narrowing down options now will help reduce or eliminate challenges in the future.

THREE-SIX MONTHS OUT

PLAN THE BRIDAL SHOWER

Initiate contact with the Bridesmaids to determine who will be hosting the Bridal Shower? If the Bridesmaids are hosting, find out whether they wish you to help.

CONFIRM MAJOR DETAILS

Begin to finalize the guest list and reconnect with the Bride and Groom to make sure you are all still in agreement with the financials. Unexpected expenses have a way of derailing a budget and should be minimized if possible.

CHOOSE YOUR ACCESSORIES

Have you found accessories for your Mother's dress yet? You will need the shoes to attend the fitting with, shapewear, jewelry, purse and possibly a shawl or jacket depending on the time of year. Now is the time to start to look for those finishing touches.

ORDER INVITATIONS

Make sure invitations have been drafted, proofread and ordered. General rule of thumb is to send out the invitations at least a month prior to the event. But, if this is a destination wedding or the majority of your guests are from out of state, then it may be more prudent to send them out 2-3 months in advance to ensure your guests are able to make personal arrangements to attend.

ONE-THREE MONTHS OUT

CHOOSE REHEARSAL ATTIRE

Do you have an outfit to wear to the Rehearsal Dinner? Usually the Rehearsal Dinner is less formal than the actual wedding but still requires a more defined look for the honorifics attending. Also, finalize the guest list for the Rehearsal Dinner to make sure everyone needed will be in attendance or that you're not caught off guard by someone bringing an unintended plus one.

FINISH SMALLER TASKS

Wrap up any minor tasks like finding a wedding card box, guest book, finding photos for the Memorial Table, seating chart and table numbers, or crafting favors.

CONFIRM WITH VENDORS

Check in with your vendors to make sure that everything is still confirmed and scheduled in a timely manner. Make sure the photographer knows the first look and detail shots you want, the deejay knows the first dance song and song lists, the planner has the seating arrangement, place cards, cake topper and knife, etc.



THE WEEK OF

Crunch time. This is the most stressful time of your planning process. The event that you've planned and all the details you've stressed over is almost here! Check in with your Bride and offer your support and guidance if needed. Do your final dress fitting with accessories to make sure everything is perfect. Make sure all the attire for the wedding party has been picked up and ready to go, the couples wedding rings and bridal party gifts are in order, and the out-of-town guests have their hotel rooms booked.



THE DAY OF

It's finally here and you have survived!

Make sure you have touch up makeup in your purse along with tissues. Take a deep breath and make your grand entrance! do your best to be present so you can enjoy every single moment of this perfect wedding that you helped execute!



FAQ

Q: Who are the wedding “vendors”?

A: Vendors are the companies or individuals you hire for your wedding, such as your venue, photographer planner, band, etc).

Q: What are wedding “themes”?

A: Themes are the style of wedding you choose, like black tie, casual brunch, destination, or a holiday such as Halloween or Christmas.

Q: Do I have to send Save the Dates?

A: It is a good idea if your wedding is on a holiday, in high wedding season, or if your guests will need to make travel arrangements.

Q: Do I need a Wedding Planner?

A: Many venues will offer a Day Of Coordinator (DOC), however, a planner is going to handle all of the details start to finish and make sure your day runs according to plan.

Q: What should the Fathers of the Bride and Groom wear?

A: Read our blog titled “[What Should Fathers of the Bride and Groom Wear?](#)”

Q: What do I need to know about Mother dress shopping?

A: Read our blog titled “[How To Find the Best Mother of the Bride or Groom Dress](#)”

Q: What do I need to know about wedding dress shopping?

A: Read our blog titled “[How To Prepare For Your Wedding Dress Shopping Appointment](#)”

FAQ

Q: What if it rains on the wedding day?

A: Read our blog titled "[The Bride's Guide: How To Plan For Rain On Your Wedding Day](#)"

Q: Are there alternatives to the guest book?

A: Read our blog titled "[Ten Unique and Fun Ideas For Your Wedding Guest Book](#)"

Q: What are some creative wedding favors?

A: Read our blog titled "[Modern Wedding Favors Your Guests Really Need](#)"

Q: Do we hire a band or Deejay?

A: Read our blogs titled "[Should We Hire a Band or Deejay?](#)" and "[Hiring the Right Entertainment/Deejay For Your Wedding](#)"

Q: What are the best color combinations for a spring wedding?

A: Read our blog titled "[The Perfect Color Palettes For A Spring Wedding](#)"

Q: What does "Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue" mean?

A: Read our blog titled "[Something Old, New, Borrowed, and Blue Wedding Poem](#)"