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Be Sure to Keep Your Family Happy

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Be sure to keep your family happy

by Charlotte Endres
Technical Journalism graduate

Your wedding day is the biggest, most important day in your life. And it's just as important a day for your parents.

Your happiness is of utmost importance to your family. Because they know what your coming marriage means to you and to your future happiness, they are looking forward to this event as much as you are.

But at the same time, they cannot help but experience brief moments of sadness. For about 20 years they have been the ones who looked out for you, taught you, and even prepared you for this moment. Now with someone else about to take over the number one place in your life, they cannot help but feel a little saddened—and left out—at times. And who can blame them.

Studies show that where families take an active interest and role in wedding plans and preparations, the chances for success of marriage are increased. And smooth family relationships prior to marriage usually foretell harmonious in-law relationships.

Increased tension

But all too often as the day of the wedding approaches and everyone gets more rushed, tempers can and do become a little short, especially between you and your family. As the tension increases, ruffled feelings quickly arise to mar the pleasure of all concerned. The pre-wedding days which should be so exciting and memorable become an endurance test.

It is to be expected that both you and your parents are excited...
and a little on edge during these busy days. It would be unusual if you weren’t. That does not mean, though, that the little disagreements that occur must be frequent and taken for granted.

**Careful planning**

The wise bride-to-be, with the help of her parents and others, makes such careful plans for her wedding that there is as little as possible left to be done on the last few days. Such planning enables the bride and her parents to enjoy the final preparations and big day without becoming so tired that every little thing becomes a major crisis.

Because any extra work for your parents tends to dull their enjoyment of the whole happy occasion, it is wise to get as much outside help as possible. The less that is left for you and your family to do, especially as the wedding day approaches, the better things will be; you’ll have some time to enjoy each other’s company.

**Groom’s family**

Now what about the groom’s family? If they are from out of town, it is up to you and your family to help make them feel as much at home as possible. Include them in your pre-wedding activities. Help them to become better acquainted with your own family. At the wedding be sure to introduce them to all the guests and don’t leave them standing at the reception’s end.

If your fiance has any sisters try to include at least one in your wedding party. A 6-year-old could be a flower girl; the early teen-ager might light the candles or be a junior bridesmaid. A sister with musical talent might sing or play for the wedding. Nothing pleases the groom and his parents more than knowing you think enough of his family to include his sisters in the wedding.

A little extra forethought and consideration on your part can make your wedding a truly memorable event for everyone. With the blessings of both your families, you and your new husband will confidently begin married life.

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